

Soviet envoy due in Baghdad

BAGHDAD (AP) — A Soviet envoy will visit Baghdad to brief Iraqi officials on the outcome of summit talks between U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev, a Soviet embassy spokesman said Saturday. Ambassador for Special Missions Mikhail Sytenko arrives in Baghdad on Sunday, carrying a message from the Soviet leadership to the Iraqi government, said embassy spokesman Evgeny Mikitenko. The message deals with results of the three-day Reagan-Gorbachev summit that ended Thursday in Washington, Mikitenko said. He added the envoy would visit other countries in the region, but he did not disclose Mr. Sytenko's destination after Iraq. The seven-year-old war between Iran and Iraq was among the issues discussed by Mr. Reagan and Mr. Gorbachev. The Soviet Union, Iraq's major arms supplier, has joined the United States on July 30 at the U.N. Security Council in endorsing a resolution which demands a ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية مستقلة تصدر بالإنجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الرأى

S. Yemen sentences former president to death

ADEN (R) — A South Yemeni court on Saturday sentenced deposed president Ali Nasser Mohammad to death in a mass trial of 107 of his supporters. All the defendants, including Nasser and 43 of his followers who fled to North Yemen after bloody clashes erupted in January 1986 between factions of the ruling Marxist party, were charged with treason. The bench sentenced to death by firing squad a total of 19 fugitives and 10 defendants who appeared in court, including former navy chief Abdullah Ahmad Al Hussein and Mubarak Salem, who was in charge of Nasser's personal safety. Other defendants drew jail terms that varied from 15 years' imprisonment to five. Five fugitives were amnestied, six people who appeared in court were found innocent while charges against a former official were dropped after he died in jail.

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King sends cable of sympathy to Egypt

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein on Saturday sent a cable to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak expressing deep sympathy over the death of 52 school-children in an accident that took place in Cairo on Friday. The accident involved a train which hit a bus overcrowded with children taking them home from an excursion. In his cable, the King expressed his deep condolences and of the Jordanian government and people to the president and the families of the victims involved in the accident (See page 2).

Syrian soldier killed in N. Lebanon

TRIPOLI (R) — A Syrian soldier was found shot dead in a Syrian-controlled area of north Lebanon on Saturday, the fourth such killing in a month. Police said the body was discovered in the tiny village of Bietram, 60 kilometres north of Beirut. They had no further details and Syrian officials refused to comment.

Tunis court upholds death sentence

TUNIS (R) — The Tunisian supreme court of appeal on Saturday upheld a death sentence on a Muslim fundamentalist leader convicted of treason last month. It confirmed hard labour sentences of between life and five years imposed on 12 other militants by the state security court on Nov. 28. President Zine Al Abidine Ibn Ali has the power to commute the death sentence passed on Ali Laaridj, a leader of the banned Islamic Tendency Movement.

Shultz in Denmark

COPENHAGEN (R) — U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz began a two-day visit to Denmark and Norway on Saturday intended to highlight the importance of NATO's northern flank. He landed first in Copenhagen, his first trip to Denmark since becoming secretary of state in 1982. Mr. Shultz arrived from Brussels, where he was attending annual talks between U.S. officials and the European Community. On Friday, he briefed NATO members in the Belgian capital on the summit meeting between President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and on details of the treaty scrapping medium-range nuclear missiles signed by the two leaders.

Search continues for KAL plane

BANGKOK (AP) — U.S. navy planes resumed their search for a missing South Korean airliner Saturday after photographing what appeared to be seat cushions and life preservers floating in the Andaman Sea south of Burma, a U.S. embassy spokesman said. These and numerous smaller objects were photographed Friday near India's Nicobar Islands, about 440 kilometres southwest of the Burmese capital of Rangoon, embassy spokesman Ross Petzing said.

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Violent anti-occupation protests engulf West Bank and Gaza

Israeli soldiers shoot and wound 6 more Arabs • Jordan describes Israeli actions as inhuman • Cairo sends strong protest to Peres • Security Council asked to take action

OCCUPIED WEST BANK (Agencies) — At least six Palestinians were shot and wounded by Israeli soldiers on Saturday as the Arabs living in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip kept up violent anti-Israeli demonstrations for the fourth day running.

Eight Palestinians have been killed and scores wounded in the past three days of protests in the occupied territories. On Saturday, protests were reported from at least half a dozen towns in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. In the Gaza Strip town of Khan Yunis, Israeli soldiers dispersed flower-waving Palestinian demonstrators who staged a mock funeral to protest the deaths of

their brethren. In the West Bank town of Nablus, Israeli troops clashed with Palestinian demonstrators and hurled bricks and iron bars from rooftops in the Arab market. Five demonstrators were wounded, two of them seriously, in Khan Yunis and the Gaza Strip town of Rafan, an army spokesman said.

An Arab reporter in Gaza, who requested anonymity, said about 20 Palestinians were wounded in the violence. He said soldiers used tear gas grenades and later opened fire at the Palestinians who participated in the mock funeral in Khan Yunis, wounding several of them.

Loudspeakers at the mosques, meanwhile, chanted Islamic slogans and also called on ambulances to assist the wounded, he said. International relief workers described Saturday's protests as the worst demonstrations they had seen. Nearly all of Gaza City was closed by a shopkeepers' strike, and Palestinian flags were seen waving from roof-tops and mos-

ques, Palestinian sources said. In Nablus, soldiers patrolled through narrow streets as Palestinians threw bottles and stones from building tops and blocked alleyways with burning rubbish bins, eyewitnesses quoted by Reuters said.

The demonstrators retreated when soldiers fired rubber bullets and live ammunition into the air, but advanced again once the firing stopped and 10-year old schoolgirls joined the stone-throwing, witnesses said. Similar demonstrations erupted in Ramallah, Hebron, and the Aska and Balata refugee camps near Nablus. Aska was placed under curfew after stone-throwing protesters tried to stage

(Continued on page 4)

U.N. issues new call for Mideast conference and condemns Israel

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — The General Assembly made a new call again on Friday for a U.N.-sponsored peace conference on the Middle East with the participation of the five permanent members of the Security Council and all parties involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict including the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The resolution, one of several on the Middle East situation and similar to one recently adopted on the question of Palestine, was approved by a vote of 124-3 with 22 abstentions. The negative votes were cast by Israel, the United States and Honduras.

Sponsored by 17 Arab countries and introduced by Jordan, the resolution referred to the PLO as the sole legitimate repre-

sentative of the Palestinian people.

It said a peace conference under U.N. auspices, as called for annually since 1983, was the "appropriate way to a peaceful, comprehensive and just settlement of the dispute which will ensure the restoration of the occupied Arab territories" and the solution of the Palestine question in all its aspects.

Another resolution, approved by 99-19, with 33 abstentions, reaffirmed the assembly's conviction that the question of Palestine was the core of the conflict in the Middle East.

It condemned Israel's "continued occupation of the Palestinian and other Arab territories, including Jerusalem" and demanded its immediate and uncon-

ditional withdrawal from all the territories occupied since the 1967 war.

The same draft condemned Israel's "aggression, policies and practices against the Palestinian people" as well as the imposition of its laws and jurisdiction over the Golan Heights.

A separate vote was taken on a paragraph saying strategic cooperation accord between Israel and Washington, as well as the supply of arms and economic aid including a recent free trade agreement, had "encouraged Israel to pursue its aggressive and expansionist policies and practices."

This part of the draft was approved by a vote of 64-33 with 41 abstentions.

(Continued on page 4)

40 rescued from Cypriot tanker set ablaze by Iranian gunboat

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — A U.S. navy destroyer and a press helicopter on Saturday rescued 40 people, including a pregnant woman, from a burning Cypriot tanker set ablaze by an Iranian gunboat attack in the southern Gulf, according to reports reaching here.

The guided missile destroyer USS Chandler used its helicopter to pluck 11 seamen from aboard the 232,164-tonne Pivot while the privately chartered press helicopter was able to land on deck five or six times to ferry 29 others to the warship, according to navy officials, witnesses and shipping

sources quoted by news agencies. Four salvage tugboats succeeded in extinguishing the flames aboard the tanker about five hours after the mid-morning attack, said maritime salvage executives.

For three hours, flames were around the vessel and the waters through which the tanker was trailing, as crewmembers had been barred by the fire from getting to the engine room to stop it, said AP photographer Greg English. English was aboard a helicopter to film the stricken vessel.

The Pivot had been "moving in

one huge circle with the current," said one maritime salvage executive.

The Greek captain of the vessel and three of his mates never left the ship, but the 40 others were taken to the port city of Dubai, said the executives.

Shipping sources and the London-based Lloyd's shipping intelligence unit reported no casualties among the crew.

Smoke was still rising from the tanker but the damage appeared to be confined to five holds in the side of the tanker, they said.

(Continued on page 3)

Reagan: No accord on long-range missiles at the expense of SDI

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President Ronald Reagan said Saturday there would be no treaty reducing superpower arsenals of long-range nuclear missiles if the Soviets "try to hold it hostage to restrictions" on his "Star Wars" defence programme.

In his weekly radio address, the president appeared to back away from his assertion Friday that U.S.-Soviet differences over "Star Wars" formally known as the strategic defence initiative (SDI), had been "resolved" at last week's summit.

"We made progress toward 50 per cent reductions in strategic nuclear arsenals" during three days of talks with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, the president said.

"This could be another historic achievement, provided the Soviets don't try to hold it hos-

tagate to restrictions on SDI," he said.

"When I met with General Secretary Gorbachev in Geneva in 1985 and in Reykjavik, Iceland, last year, he exerted every bit of pressure he could to try to get us to give up SDI," Mr. Reagan said.

"Building a defence against nuclear weapons is a moral as well as strategic imperative, and we will never give it up. The Soviets have persisted in efforts to limit our testing in this vital area, but providing a strategic defence is too important to restrict the promise it holds for future generations."

Representative Stephen Solarz, who delivered the Democratic response to Mr. Reagan's radio address, chided Republicans for not supporting the president on the treaty, saying it rep-

resents "a small step forward for mankind and a great step forward for President Reagan."

Mr. Reagan said on Friday he believed the SDI issue had been resolved in his meetings with Mr. Gorbachev and would not hold up further arms reductions.

"I don't think there is any impediment there at all," he told reporters.

U.S. officials said there was agreement to set aside SDI at arms reduction talks even though Mr. Gorbachev made clear before he left Washington that he had not dropped his opposition to the programme.

Mr. Reagan and Mr. Gorbachev hope to sign a strategic arms reduction treaty within the first six months of 1988.

Summit seen as falling short in the U.S. but as historic in Moscow, page 8

Murphy: U.S.-Soviet summit failed to resolve differences over Gulf

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — A top U.S. official has said the superpower summit has not resolved differences over the Gulf war and he criticised Moscow for its refusal to back a global arms embargo against Iran at the United Nations.

Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy said Friday the Washington summit talks with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and his aides had been "inconclusive on the Gulf war, with the Soviets sticking to previous positions."

"We believe these Soviet positions reflect continuing Soviet efforts to play this issue both ways by avoiding actions in the U.N. which would sour Soviet-Iranian relations while doing just enough to blunt the increasing criticism of the Arab states directed at Moscow," he told a conference organised by Washington's Middle East Institute.

The United States has been pressing the Soviet Union to back an arms embargo against Iran to force acceptance of an earlier U.N. Security Council resolution demanding a ceasefire in the seven-year-old Iran-Iraq war.

Mr. Gorbachev made it clear at a news conference on Thursday that he did not believe the time had come for the council to consider such a step.

"I think we have not yet exhausted the potential of the first resolution," he said. That action — Resolution 598 — was adopted unanimously by the council on July 20.

But Mr. Murphy said an enforcement resolution was long overdue.

Iran is "again massing forces for a major winter offensive, to be launched as early as next month," he said without giving further details.

Mr. Murphy, the administration's top policy official on the Middle East, called on Moscow to follow up on its stated desire to see the United Nations play a more central role in international affairs.

"This argues for joining together, now, to enforce the council's mandate and help restore a measure of peace to this critical area of the world, where

(Continued on page 3)

King, beginning Gulf visit, meets Kuwaiti and Bahraini leaders

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein on Saturday embarked on a five-nation Arab Gulf tour to follow up on last month's Arab summit meeting in Amman.

The King's first stop was Kuwait where he met with the emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, and senior officials.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the talks were within the framework of continued consultations on important Arab issues in the wake of the Amman summit meeting and its positive outcome.

Petra said the talks between the King and Sheikh Jaber covered the developments in the Iran-Iraq war, current Arab affairs and Kuwaiti-Jordanian relations.

The talks were attended by the Jordanian delegation accompanying King Hussein on his current tour. It included Prime Minister

Zaid Rifai, Chief of the Royal Court Marwan Al Qasem, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid and Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker as well as the commander of the Royal Jordanian Air Force.

Following his brief visit to Kuwait, the King and his delegation flew to Bahrain and held talks with the emir, Sheikh Issa Ibn Salman Al Khalifa.

The King was expected to spend Saturday night in Bahrain and leave for Oman, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar on Sunday, according to diplomatic sources here.

The King's visit to the Gulf countries, all members of the Gulf Cooperation Council, comes in advance of the Dec. 26 summit of the six-nation GCC in Riyadh. The GCC summit is expected

to discuss the Iran-Iraq war.

Diplomatic sources said the King's talks with the Gulf leaders were also expected to cover the results of the superpower summit in Washington earlier this week.

King Hussein told Cairo's Al-Ahram newspaper that the United States and the Soviet Union should do more to implement U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 and end the Gulf conflict.

He also urged a collective Arab stand against Iran so that it would realise it was not "facing one Arab country but the whole Arab Nation."

Upon his departure from Amman, King Hussein was seen off by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Cabinet members and senior officials. Prince Hassan was sworn in as Regent during the King's absence.

Mubarak offers to visit Syria and meet Assad

ABU DHABI (R) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said in an interview published on Saturday that he had offered to visit Syria and meet President Hafez Al Assad.

"I have offered to go to Syria and meet President Assad, but I have not yet had a response," Mr. Mubarak told the Gulf daily Al Itihad. "We believe in dialogue to solve differences and our door is still open."

Mr. Mubarak said Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi had offered to meet him but, like the Syrian leader, wanted Egypt first to abrogate its 1979 Camp David treaty with Israel.

Mr. Mubarak defended the treaty and said to abrogate it would be tantamount to declaring war.

"I tell our Syrian brothers that the Camp David accord is not against Palestinians nor does it violate the Arab Defence Charter," he said.

Mr. Mubarak said Egypt would not compromise on a square inch of Arab land nor would it negotiate on behalf of Palestinians.

"But to someone demanding that Egypt scrap the treaty and violate its commitment, I would ask: 'How will you benefit and how will we benefit?'"

Egypt was committed to peace but also to Arabs, Mr. Mubarak said. "I think we had better cooperate to resolve the problem and to regain rights for their owners."

Libya criticised the states restoring ties with Egypt. Col. Qadhafi has repeatedly offered to pour money into Egypt's economy in return for abandoning the Camp David treaty.

"His condition was that I assure him, or even whisper to him, that I would abrogate Camp David, even after ten years," Mr. Mubarak said.

He accused Libya of trying to destabilise Egypt.

Resistance says 5 SLA men killed

RASHAYA, Lebanon (Agencies) — Resistance fighters said Saturday they killed or wounded at least five Israeli-backed militiamen in a raid in South Lebanon on Saturday, less than 48 hours after claiming the killing of an Israeli navy officer.

The pro-Iranian Islamic Resistance said its men attacked a patrol of the South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia northeast of the town of Bint Jbeil and inside an Israeli-declared "security zone."

In a statement from eastern Lebanon's Bekaa Valley, the guerrilla coalition said more than five SLA militiamen were killed.

1988 oil price hangs in balance in OPEC wrangle

VIENNA (Agencies) — Next year's world oil price hung in the balance on Saturday because of OPEC deadlock over where to pitch price and production levels, delegates to the four-day-old talks said.

The OPEC ministers who met here on Saturday formally behind closed doors for the first time since Thursday, adjourned after about one hour and will meet Sunday for what is likely to be their final session.

OPEC conference President Rilwanu Lukman was trying to break the impasse over Iran's demands for a \$2 per barrel increase to \$20 and Gulf opposition to any price rise.

The meeting was first sche-

duled to take place at 1700 GMT in Lukman's Vienna hotel suite but was later postponed for at least an hour, delegates said.

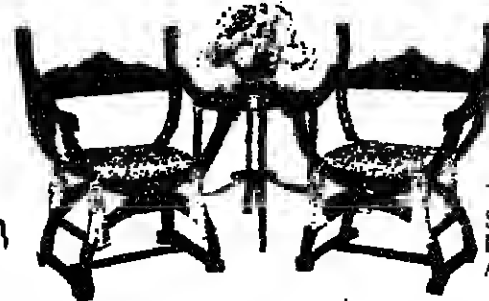
It was unclear whether the meeting was called to ratify an extension of the 1987 price and production accord as a face-saving move to break the logjam or whether there was room for manoeuvre on the issues dividing the group.

Several ministers say a rollover of the existing pact may be the only way out unless the group is prepared to hold talks which could last two more weeks, delegates said.

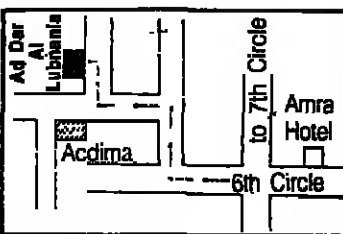
"We don't know what is going to happen," said one delegate close to OPEC leadership.

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Senate approves sale of Stingers to Bahrain

WASHINGTON (R) — The Senate voted on Friday to allow the sale of Stinger anti-aircraft missiles to Bahrain but placed strict conditions on their use and security.

The action, taken by voice vote on an amendment to a catchall government spending bill for fiscal 1988, reversed a Senate committee's decision last week to ban the sale of Stingers to Bahrain and other Gulf nations.

The Reagan administration, seeking to reward Bahrain for its support of U.S. forces operating in the Gulf, had lobbied hard for the ban to be reversed.

A compromise was worked out between Sen. Dennis DeConcini, an Arizona Democrat who sponsored the bill, and senators who believed Bahrain should receive the \$7 million in Stingers, a portable, shoulder-fired ground-to-air missile.

Sen. DeConcini feared the missiles could find their way into the hands of Middle East terrorists and be used against U.S. aircraft in the volatile Gulf area, where Iran and Iraq have been fighting

for seven years.

"We are taking a high risk because of our strong friendship with the nation and because of their defence needs," Sen. DeConcini said.

But he said it was important to note the bans on selling Stingers to other Gulf nations, like Oman and the United Arab Emirates, was still attached to the spending bill.

The compromise places strict security measures on the missiles, including separate storage for the launcher and the missile, U.S. inspections of storage sites and a prohibition on Bahrain transferring the weapons to a third country.

The president must certify to Congress that the missiles were needed "to counter an immediate air threat."

The missiles would be sold to Bahrain for a period of 18

months, during which time the administration is to propose an alternative air defence system for the Bahrainis.

All unused Stingers must be returned at that time.

Sen. John Glenn, an Ohio Democrat, said he was pleased with the compromise. "Bahrain has been a friend to our country," he said.

"Bahrain has provided basing, berthing facilities for our ships since 1949 at minimal cost. We have unlimited access to air facilities. We have unlimited access to port facilities," he said.

In another amendment adopted earlier by the Senate on the same bill, senators voted to urge the administration to ask nations who benefit from U.S. naval protection in the Gulf to share a portion of the cost of keeping the armada there.

"The president of the United States should enter into negotiations with such countries to achieve a pro-rata share of these burdens," the non-binding resolution said.

Egyptian defence minister to visit Kuwait

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian Defence Minister Field Marshal Abdul Halim Abu Ghazala will pay an official visit on Monday to Kuwait, which Egypt has pledged to help defend itself, ministry sources said.

The two-day visit comes at the invitation of Kuwaiti Defence Minister Sheikh Salem Al Sabah to discuss bilateral cooperation, the sources said.

Kuwait was one of nine Arab states which last month resumed full diplomatic ties with Egypt after a break of eight years over its 1979 separate peace treaty with Israel.

The Arab move followed growing concern among Gulf states over the Iran-Iraq war.

2 Knesset members urge court to expel Awad

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Two right-wing Israeli politicians petitioned the high court to force Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir to deport Palestinian-American activist Mubarak Awad, saying his activities "threatened national security," the Itim news agency reported.

The petition by Guelia Cohen and Yuval Neman, who represent the nationalist Tebiya Party in the Knesset (parliament), charged that U.S. pressure led by American Ambassador Thomas Pickering is preventing Shamir from deporting Mr. Awad, Itim said.

Mr. Awad, a 44-year-old Palestinian-born U.S. citizen, heads the Palestinian Centre for the Study of Non-Violence in Jerusalem. Israel ordered him to leave the country by Nov. 20 for calling on Palestinians to resist Israeli occupation by non-violent means, but his deportation was postponed after the U.S. government put pressure on Israel to allow him to stay.

Meanwhile U.S. State Department spokeswoman Phyllis Oakley urged that a senior editor with the Palestine Press Service who was detained by Israeli authorities on Dec. 8 be accorded "due judicial process."

"While I don't have all the details of this situation," she told a questioner, "we do understand that late Tuesday night Radwan Abu Ayash, a senior editor with the Palestine Press Service was placed under administrative detention. We strongly support the principle of a free press and hope that Mr. Abu Ayash will be accorded due judicial process."

52 children die in Cairo bus-train crash

CAIRO (Agencies) — At least 52 children were killed and more than 80 injured when a train smashed into a crowded school bus near Cairo, doctors said.

It happened at dusk when the bus driver tried to take a short cut across the railway line at the village of Kafr Al Shurafa, about 25 kilometres north east of Cairo, police said.

"We saw the train coming like a monster. We all screamed with one voice," said Rashid Rashed Abdul Halim, a school messenger who was sitting beside the driver in the bus.

"We said 'look out, look out' to the driver. The train hit the rear of the bus and the next thing I knew, I was on the road surrounded by moaning children. Blood was everywhere."

Doctors said at least 15 children were critical and not expected to survive.

The children aged between six and 12 years were returning from an outing to the Cairo Zoo and the Egyptian Museum.

The dead and injured were rushed to Heliopolis, the nearest Cairo suburb.

Security forces cordoned off Heliopolis Hospital as waiting parents started to gather.

Dozens of survivors, some two to a bed, screamed and moaned as doctors treated them.

Police sources said the bus driver was among those killed. The train driver was being questioned.

The bus was carrying about 150 children in space designed for 42, police said.

The force of the crash sent the bus skidding 120 metres.

Authorities declared an emergency in the Heliopolis area.

As distraught mothers mourned at Cairo hospitals on Saturday, doctors tried to save the lives of 15 critically injured children and another 65 less seriously injured in Egypt's worst road crash in years.

"The number of victims in this gruesome tragedy has increased because of the large number of children packed into the vehicle," said Education Minister Fathi Sorour.

He told reporters school officials would be disciplined for allowing too many children on the bus.

At Heliopolis Hospital, a dazed woman in a long black

dress sat weeping on the floor outside a packed ward as doctors rushed children to operating theatres. She was looking for her daughter Rasha.

"She is only seven years old," she told Reuters. "Her father doesn't know yet. He will go crazy."

Interior Minister Zaki Bakr whose ministry is in charge of police, visited the village Saturday morning.

The leading state-owned newspaper Al-Ahram quoted several witnesses on Saturday as saying the bus driver was at fault because the crossing was not for use by large vehicles. They said a dirt road led to it, and only pedestrians and small carts used that route.

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Congressman says Deng's son-in-law is involved in Silkworm sales to Iran

WASHINGTON (R) — A Chinese government agency run by Deng Xiaoping's son-in-law is shipping arms to Iran despite repeated U.S. appeals to stop, a leading democratic congressman charged on Friday.

Les Aspin, chairman of the House of Representatives' Armed Services Committee, said two-thirds of Iran's military supplies originate in China, including Silkworm surface-to-surface missiles that Tehran has used in its seven-year war with Iraq.

"Despite an infinite number of appeals from the United States... the Chinese deliveries continue," the Wisconsin Democrat told an international conference on the Gulf.

Mr. Aspin said the sales "are made by a division of the Chinese government that is run by Deng Xiaoping's son-in-law."

"The sales are therefore not some oversight — some hole in the giant bureaucracy of China's vast government," he said, adding the Chinese leader's son-in-law was possibly engaged in "empire building" in continuing the sales.

Mr. Aspin did not name the son-in-law but congressional sources identified him as Hei Ping and said the government agency was the export-import division.

In Peking, the Chinese Foreign Ministry on Saturday dismissed as "sheer fabrication" the statement by Mr. Aspin.

China has repeatedly stated

that it does not sell arms to Iran, Iraq's Gulf war enemy, and said it was taking steps to prevent them reaching it through third parties.

Asked about Mr. Aspin's statement, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said it was "sheer fabrication."

China has been offended by several recent statements and resolutions originating in the U.S. Congress, notably accusing China of human rights abuses in Tibet.

Vice Foreign Minister Zhu Qizhen told U.S. Ambassador Winston Lord on Thursday that such a non-binding resolution adopted by the Senate on Dec. 3 "distorts the facts, slanders and vilifies the Chinese government and people and grossly interferes in China's internal affairs."

U.S. intelligence sources have reported that Peking sold 50 to 35 of the surface-to-surface missiles to Iran.

Iran dismisses embargo

ISLAMABAD (R) — Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati blamed Iraq on Saturday for a stalemate in United Nations efforts to negotiate a ceasefire in the Gulf war and issued a new call for Baghdad to be punished as "the aggressor."

At a news conference ending his three-day visit to Pakistan, Mr. Velayati dismissed as a "propaganda weapon" attempts by the United States to impose an arms embargo against Tehran.

He said any attempt to impose an arms embargo against Iran was pointless as "from the beginning of the war we have been besieged by an arms embargo... this embargo is more like a joke than anything serious."

The foreign minister was commenting on a statement by U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar on Thursday that negotiations to end the seven-year-old Gulf war required a "fresh impulse"

JORDAN TELEVISION	
15:30	Programme Review
15:35	Children's Science programme
16:00	Local Agricultural programme
16:25	Local programme
16:50	Programme review
17:00	News in Arabic
17:10	Arabic news
17:30	Programme on Arabic
17:50	T.V. Magazine (local)
18:00	News Summary
18:10	Close down

RADIO JORDAN	
07:00	Light Music
07:30	News
08:00	Morning Show
08:30	News Summary
09:00	In Concert
09:30	News Summary
10:00	Pop Talk
10:30	News Summary
11:00	Pop Session cont'd
11:30	News Bulletin
12:00	Instrumentals
12:30	News Summary
13:00	Instrumentals
13:30	Old Favorites
14:00	Science Report
14:30	News Summary
15:00	Listener's Choice
15:30	News
16:00	Date with a Star
16:30	Evening Show
17:00	News Summary
17:30	Evening Show continued
18:00	News Summary
18:30	Evening Show continued
19:00	News Summary

WHAT'S GOING ON	
TODAY'S EVENTS	
EXHIBITIONS	
"The Documenta" — art exhibition at the Goethe Institute until Dec. 21	
An exhibition of paintings by Ahmad N. Wazir at the Abu Art Gallery - Jabbal Amman until Dec. 20.	
CULTURAL CENTRES	
Royal Cultural Centre ... Tel. 6610287	American Centre ... 644371
British Council ... 641520	French Cultural Centre ... 641478
Guelia Cohen ... 641478	Spanish Cultural Centre ... 641478
Turkish Cultural Centre ... 641478	Y.W.C.A. ... 641478
Y.W.M.C.A. ... 641478	Amman Municipal Library ... 641478
Ums of Jordan Library ... 641478	
MUSEUMS	
"Children's Heritage and Science Museum." Fun and knowledge for all ages, plus a small planetarium at the Hayat Arts Centre. Open all week 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed on Friday.	
Folklore Museum: Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash 14th to 19th centuries. The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 62760.	
Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabbal Al Ghaf (Clashed Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.	
Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by the 19th Century orientalist artists. Muntazah, Jabbal Luweindeh. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 64121.	
Martyrs' Memorial (Military Museum): Collection of military	

FOR THE TRAVELLER	
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) minimum departure at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08) 533005, where it should always be verified.	
ARRIVALS ROYAL JORDANIAN (RJ) FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)	
09:15	Aqaba (RJ)
09:30	Kuwait (RJ)
09:40	Jeddah (RJ)
09:55	Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
10:00	Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:05	London (RJ)
10:10	New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
10:15	Paris (RJ)
10:20	Frankfurt (RJ)
10:25	Brussels, Geneva (RJ)
10:30	Madrid, Rome (RJ)
10:35	Baghdad (RJ)
OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)	
09:00	Berlin (H)
09:35	Cairo (MS)
10:00	Damascus (AZ)
10:15	Kuwait (LN)
10:30	Sharjah, Doha (GFI)
10:45	Jeddah (SVI)
10:50	Kuwait (KU)
10:55	Frankfurt (LH)
11:00	Athens (OA)
11:05	London, Cairo (BA)
DEPARTURES ROYAL JORDANIAN (RJ) FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)	
07:00	Aqaba (RJ)
07:10	Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
07:20	Cairo (RJ)
07:30	Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
07:40	Dubai, Muscat (RJ)
07:50	Bahrain, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
08:00	Baghdad (RJ)
08:10	Lafayette (RJ)
08:20	Jeddah, San'a (RJ)
08:30	Cairo (RJ)
08:40	Damascus (RJ)
08:50	Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)
09:00	Bangkok (RJ)

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.	
EMERGENCIES	
Amman governorate	891228
Amman Civil Defence	198, 199
Civil Defence Helpline	271293, 273131
Civil Defence Qumweish	707533
Civil Defence Deir Alla	27300
Ambulance	775111
Amman downtown fire brigade	198
First Aid	630341
Blood Bank	783033
Civil Defence rescue	661111
Fire headquarters	622000-3
Police rescue	192, 631111, 637777
Police headquarters	630441
Traffic police	826390
Electric Power Co.	638381/4, 624881
Municipal water complaints	771258
Queen Alia Int'l. Airport	(08) 533006
GENERAL	
Jordan Television	773111/19
Radio Jordan	774111/19
Ministry of Tourism	642311
Police complaints	666142
Price complaints	661176
Telephone Information	661176
Jordan and Middle East calls	13
Overseas calls	17
Repair service	11
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Othman Al Haj Ali	741259
Dr. Abdul Haim Al Musa	643470
Dr. Mohammad Abbadi	778959
Al Salam pharmacy	676730
Netrouk pharmacy	626262
Firas pharmacy	661912
Ferdous pharmacy	787233
Al Asma pharmacy	637653
HOSPITALS	
Husseini Medical Centre	813813/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn	642816
Akileh Maternity, J. Amn	642412
Jabal Amman Maternity	642362
Malhas, J. Amman	636140
Palestine, Shmeisan	664104
Shmeisan Hospital	669133
University Hospital	645845/63
Al-Muhsen Hospital	667277/9
The Islamic, Abdali	666127/37
Al-Ah, Abdali	664146
Italian, Al-Muhajreen	77101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh	775111/26
Army, Marka	661611/15
Queen Alia Hospital	602240/50
Amal Hospital	674155
TAXIS:	
Ahram taxi	663911
Venecia taxi	641385
Palestine taxi	671473
Shmeisan taxi	665294
Melnyar taxi	644574
Khayman taxi	841577
Jordan taxi	623030
Asen taxi	844303
IRBID:	
Dr. Mohammad AlShara	273680
ZARQA:	
Dr. Natalia Oqash	(-)
Khalil pharmacy	963417
MARKET PRICES	
Upper/lower price in fils per kg.	
Apple (different kinds)	300 / 250
Apple (French)	400 / 350
Banana	350 / 300
Banana (Mukammal)	300 / 240
Beans	120 / 100
Beans (broad)	500 / 400
Beetroot	150 / 120

Women's union marks 43 years of progress

AMMAN (Petra) — The General Union of Jordanian Women (GUJW) on Saturday celebrated its 43rd anniversary with a ceremony attended by representatives of women unions from all over the country.

GUJW Chairperson Haifa Al Bashir addressed the ceremony, outlining the union's development and achievements. Mrs. Bashir voiced appreciation to Her Majesty Queen Zein, the Queen Mother, who was the pioneer in women's union activities in the Kingdom, as well as to

Her Majesty Queen Noor, the honorary chairperson of the union.

"It was due to the efforts of Queen Zein that a union for Jordanian women was established in 1944," Mrs. Bashir said. She said that the Jordanian women's union, together with similar unions in Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon and Palestine, formed the nucleus for an Arab Women's Federation.

The GUJW, she said, aims at incorporating women into Jordan's development, as well as involving them in international conferences on women.

Arab conference on philosophy opens today

AMMAN (Petra) — The Second Arab Conference on Philosophy opens today at the University of Jordan under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

Delegates from various Arab countries will take part in the four-day meeting to discuss aspects of philosophy, such as imported ideology in relation to Arab and Islamic philosophy, according to Ahmad Madi, deputy dean of the Faculty of Arts at the University of Jordan.

Dr. Madi, who is also chairman

of a committee preparing for the conference, said that the delegates will tackle philosophical issues, 20th century schools of philosophy and the formation of an Arab philosophy society.

The meeting is organised by the University of Jordan, in cooperation with the Arab League centre for studies on unity among Arab countries, Dr. Madi noted. He said that the First Arab Conference on Philosophy was held in 1983 and focussed on the Palestine problem.

Rawabdeh turns new community centre over to GUVS to operate

AMMAN (Petra) — The Greater Amman Municipality on Saturday turned over a new community centre in the eastern district of Marka to the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) to operate it. The move came through an agreement signed by Greater Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'uf Al Rawabdeh and Fakhri Bilbeisi, chairman of the GUVS council in the Amman area.

The centre is surrounded by a public garden and comprises a community hall, a children's theatre, a library, a nursery school and a vocational centre for women, offering training in dressmaking, typing and weaving and knitting.

The Amman Municipality has built two other centres of this kind, at Hasbimit Janoubi and Jahal Nasser, and turned them over to GUVS and the General Union of Jordanian Women.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Mr. Rawabdeh said that the centres were turned over to GUVS and other voluntary societies because these organisations can ensure that the centres contribute to the development of local communities. Mr. Bilbeisi, who also addressed the ceremony, said that GUVS was exerting great efforts towards the development of local communities.

Murphy: Gulf differences remain

(Continued from page 1)

tensions are rising," he said. He said the Soviet position at the summit talks "did not develop beyond contentions that Iran deserves more time, that voluntary compliance by Iran with 598 remains possible, and that a 'real' force should be established by the U.N. to implement 598."

Moscow has urged the creation of a U.N. naval presence in the Gulf on the grounds that U.S. and allied navies in the area are the cause of tension.

Michael Armacost, the number three man in the State Department, suggested later on Friday that the Soviet Union might finally agree to discuss an enforcement resolution at the United Nations next week.

"My overall sense is that perhaps they are ready to commence those discussions but the test will come of that next week up in New York," he told reporters.

State Department spokeswoman Phyllis Oakley said on Friday that a report to the Security Council by Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar on Thursday had "reinforced" the U.S. view on the need for a second resolution.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar told the council he had concluded that a "fresh and resolute impulse" is needed, Oakley said. She said the Soviet Union, chairman this month of the Security Council, would discuss the next step with council members beginning next week.

"We will also be consulting with other members of the council. We hope that as a result of

these discussions, rapid progress can be made on an enforcement resolution," Oakley said.

Oakley declined to comment on or draw conclusions from remarks made by Mr. Gorbachev during his Washington news conference.

"Obviously the issue of the Gulf activity at the U.N. was discussed at the summit," Oakley said. "I think that the centre of focus of attention now turns to New York and the activities at the Security Council."

Resolution 598, which demands an immediate end to the Iran-Iraq war, was unanimously adopted by the Security Council on July 20. Since then, Mr. Perez de Cuellar has held several rounds of consultations with Iranian and Iraqi officials — including a personal trip to Tehran and Baghdad — in an effort to bring about implementation of the resolution. While Iraq has said it will abide by the resolution, provided Iran does, Iranian officials have refused to accept it.

"We've pointed out often enough that the U.N. process sometimes moves slowly; it involves many nations, a lot of consultation, a lot of discussion," Oakley reminded reporters.

The U.S. view that it is time — and has been for weeks — "to go to the second resolution" is clearly known, the deputy spokeswoman emphasised. "We welcome this report of the secretary general, that he now sees that he's at the end of his mediation effort with the parties and that it is time to give, as he said, a fresh impulse," she said.

40 rescued from blazing tanker

(Continued from page 1)

The Pivot had been attacked about 15 kilometres south of Iran-held Abu Musa Island as it headed towards the Strait of Hormuz en route to Indonesia with a load of Saudi Arabian oil, said the sources.

The Iranian frigate, carrying no name or number, blasted the Pivot with four or five shells after questioning its captain about his voyage, shipping sources said.

"The Iranian ship wished him a safe voyage, then opened fire a few minutes later," one source quoted Greek Captain Alexander Kontogiorgos as saying.

Shipping sources said the Chandler, at 8,140 tonnes one of

the biggest U.S. warships in the Gulf, and the unmarked Iranian frigate were old sparring partners.

The American destroyer could frequently be seen loitering in international waters off Dubai while the frigate was known to have attacked several merchant vessels, they said.

Reuters photographer Frederic Neema saw the two ships pass each other less than a mile apart off Dubai on Friday.

The Chandler is a much more powerful ship. But, under its rules of engagement, can take no action against the frigate unless the Iranian ship attacks a vessel flying the American flag.

NRA, Canadian agency to conduct joint oil exploration operations

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Natural Resources Authority (NRA) and Petro Canada next month will embark on joint seismicological operations in the Al Risha region near the Iraqi border, as a part of Jordan's exploration for oil.

The announcement was made by NRA Director-General Kamal Jureisat, who said that there were encouraging signs of oil finds, in the light of the recent discovery of gas reserves at Al Risha.

The Petro Canada International Agency for Cooperation (PCIAC) will bring in a seismicological team to carry out the operations, Mr. Jureisat said. He said that the joint work will be in implementation of a bilateral agreement signed by the two sides, under which Canada pledged to invest a total of \$19 million in helping Jordan find oil and to provide the NRA with the expertise needed in for oil prospecting.

The agreement, which was

reached between the two sides last April, provides for the agency to supply equipment, experts and oil exploration training. The two-year agreement will be amended to include delineation of drilling, while the NRA seeks to invite Canadian oil companies to participate in exploration programmes through a production-sharing arrangement.

Mr. Jureisat was quoted earlier by the local press as saying that big oil and gas finds were imminent following the successful exploitation of the Al Risha gas fields. Jordan's bill for oil imports last year, at a total of \$600 million, was equivalent to 90 per cent of the country's export earnings.

Gas from the Al Risha fields is presently being used to generate electric energy, which will eventually be linked to the national grid, as well as in helping the country reduce its dependence on imported oil.

NRA to cooperate with W. German institute

In a related development, the NRA and the West German Federal Institute for Geo-Sciences and Natural Resources on Saturday signed an agreement for cooperation in oil exploration, including a provision for conducting feasibility studies on the exploitation of shale oil in Jordan.

The agreement provides for the West German institute to provide the NRA with experts in geology, mineralogy, and oil exploration to advise the authority on ways to reduce the country's oil exploration costs.

The agreement also provides for the institute to update national studies on water prepared by the NRA in 1975, in cooperation with the Water Authority of Jordan.

The agreement was signed by Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Dr. Hisham Khadh and the chairman of the West German institute, Dr. Manfred Krusen, in the presence of Mr. Jureisat and other NRA officials.

Glass industries company reviews plans to diversify products, expand cooperation

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Jordan Glass Industries Company (JGIC) is currently studying the possibility of diversifying its range of products to include crystal, home utensils and containers.

"These plans will be executed as soon as the study is completed in the coming three months," according to JGIC Chairman of the Board and Director-General Farhi Obaid.

The ailing company, once on the verge of total collapse, is now approaching safe shores after narrowing down its 1987 losses to one-third of last year's JD 1.5 million deficit.

As of the beginning of last month, the company started making profits, following the launching of its long-awaited "tinted glass" into local and Arab markets.

The tinted glass is produced at the JGIC, whose paid-up capital is JD 8.1 million, under franchise and supervision of the renowned Belgian company Glaverbe and its experts, who work closely with a team of technical consultants from the Polish company Polmexcecekop.

Following the marketing of tinted glass, in addition to the clear, white glass which the company has always sold, the JGIC anticipates a minimum of JD 800,000 in profits in 1988, as the production cost of tinted glass is only five per cent higher than that of white glass, while the market price of the new product exceeds that of white glass by between 100 to 150 per cent in both the local and international markets.

"The quality of our tinted glass is of equal standard of similar international products, and our prices have been designed to allow us to compete with the local and international market prices of this

commodity," Mr. Obaid told the Jordan Times recently.

According to him, the international market price, excluding delivery costs, is \$14 per square metre of tinted glass. "With this in mind, we have lowered our export prices to between \$9 to \$11 to enable us to compete in Arab markets with similar, foreign tinted glass," he said.

"As for the local market, the price of imported tinted glass is \$15, including taxes and freight costs, and our prices have been put at JD 5 per square metre of tinted glass — a market price equal to that of foreign glass," Mr. Obaid added.

The first consignment of 120 tonnes of tinted glass left for Egypt last Thursday and the second shipment of 200 tonnes left for Iraq on Monday.

In addition to these two countries, the JGIC's main importers are Saudi Arabia and North Yemen. Forty per cent of its annual estimated gross production of 27,000 tonnes is marketed locally, while the remainder is sent abroad.

Mr. Obaid revealed plans to attract major importers to participate in the company's capital, in order to increase the plant's production capacity and secure these markets for JGIC products — plans which, he said, were in line with Jordan's firm belief in Arab economic cooperation and integration.

Economists have explained that the JGIC's insistence upon including Egypt as a major partner in the company followed reports that Cairo was planning to start a glass factory with a total annual output of 100,000 tonnes of white and tinted glass. This would flood Arab markets with glass products and, thereby, make it more difficult for the JGIC and the proposed Egyptian

Apple computers hit market

AMMAN — Ideal Systems Co. (Pvt) Ltd., the newly-appointed Apple authorised dealer in Jordan, is celebrating the announcement of their dealership having launched Apple's different products at the Royal Automobile Club this week, under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid. The exhibition, which continues today, also at the Royal Automobile Club, will be open to the public from 10:30 a.m. till 8:30 p.m.

The exhibition features the Macintosh family of products: the very popular Macintosh Plus, the new Macintosh SE and the new Macintosh II. Different applications will be demonstrated in both Arabic and English.

The exhibition will also show different solutions such as Desktop Publishing, which was first introduced by Apple Computer Inc. and its Macintosh computer; Desktop Productivity Tools for all business needs, Accounting, Desktop Communications and Conductivity and Desktop Engineering. The machine which invaded the schools in the U.S. — Apple IIGS — will also be presented.

Seminars in both Arabic and English will be conducted along with the exhibition and will focus on two subjects: Desktop Publishing, and Desktop Productivity Tools.

Ideal Systems is the latest addition to Amin Kassar & Sons group of companies, which was

established in Jordan in 1946. In addition to its extensive shipping activities, the group is also involved in trading, forwarding, insurance, travel, tourism and airfreighting as well as holding shares in various local industries. Amin Kassar & Sons ranks among the leading privately-owned companies in Jordan, with over 250 employees in its wholly-owned group of companies.

Ideal Systems Co. was established in June 1987, after negotiations with Apple Computer representatives concluded with the appointment of the company as Apple's authorised dealer in Jordan.

In their aim to market the Apple Computers and their related products in Jordan, Ideal Systems Co. representatives declare: "We feel that the Jordanian market is still behind in good comprehension and usage of personal computers. In addition, we see that most computer companies in Jordan do not provide the customer with the support and service needed. Our main objective is to have an all-around quality service-oriented company, with the goal of serving the Jordanian user by introducing the latest technology in the field of computers and high technology, and by assuring very good after-sales service and support. By letting businesspeople know our products better, we will be inviting them to bring their productivity and creativity to a new level."

Jordanian-Iraqi joint committee talks to focus on expanding trade

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan and Iraq on Saturday began consultations here to prepare for the Joint Jordanian-Iraqi Higher Committee meeting which is due to open in Amman on Monday.

The Jordanian side to the preparatory meetings was led by the under secretary of the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Supply, Mr. Mohammad Saqqaf, and the Iraqi side by the under secretary of the Ministry of Industry and Trade, Mr. Usama Abdul Razzak.

The joint higher committee groups representatives of the ministries of industry and trade, transport, energy, and the central banks in the two countries. The committee will discuss means for promoting economic and trade ties during its two-day sessions, according to sources at the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Supply here.

Mr. Taha Yassin Ramadan, Iraqi deputy prime minister and member of the Revolutionary Command Council is due here on Monday to co-chair Iraq's team to the joint committee meeting with Prime Minister Zaid Rifai.

A bulletin issued by the Jordanian embassy in Baghdad in August revealed that the volume of trade between Jordan and Iraq was on the rise. It said that the increase in and diversification of goods exchanged by the two countries was in line with resolutions adopted by the Joint Jordanian-Iraqi Higher Committee in their meetings in Baghdad last year.

According to the bulletin, Iraq imports from Jordan include food concentrates, table eggs, pharmaceutical products, chemical detergents, wool and cotton cloth, hallpoint pens, plastic products, plastic covers and greenhouses for crops, electrical appliances, sanitary equipment, pottery, metal pipes, heaters, petrochemical products, irrigation pipes, pesticides, cigarettes, alcoholic beverages, table salt,

insulation materials, rock wool and bath taps.

In an interview with the local Arabic daily Sawt Al Shaab published Saturday, on the eve of the joint committee meetings, Minister of Industry, Trade and Supply Rajai Muasher said that relations between Iraq and Jordan were exemplary and serve the interests of both the Jordanian and Iraqi peoples.

Referring to the upcoming meeting, he said the two sides will discuss expansion of trade, particularly the export of Jordanian agricultural products to Iraq. The committee, he said, will discuss bilateral cooperation in industry and future investments in industrial schemes, as well as Iraq's imports of Jordanian phosphate and fertilisers.

Until the end of October 1987, the minister added, Jordan exported JD 40 million worth of products to Iraq.

He said that the committee will discuss cooperation in energy, as well as renew agreements on cooperation in other fields.

New civil service law offers more incentives, benefits to employees

AMMAN (Petra) — As of the beginning of 1988, a new civil service law will come into effect, covering nearly 100,000 employees working at government offices and public organisations in Jordan.

Civil Service Commission (CSC) Director-General Ibrahim Izzeddin said that the new law offers incentives and fringe benefits to the employees and replaces legislation that has been in operation since 1966.

Mr. Izzeddin said that the law will first be applied to all personnel employed by government departments and, gradually over a period of five years, it will be applied to public organisations.

According to the CSC director-general the new law allows civil servants access to annual reports

about their performance, thus giving them the right to submit an objection if they feel an injustice has been done to them.

He said that the new law allows ministries and government departments to employ people to do part-time jobs, as well as full-time work, and also allows for wives or husbands to be given leave for accompanying their spouses on missions or study abroad, or for secondment to work in another country. In addition, employed women are entitled leave to take care of their children or of their sick parents, Mr. Izzeddin noted.

He said that the new system allows for more competition among employees for promotion and provides for more justice and fairness in treatment. For example, the government employee

will from now on face a disciplinary council to answer for wrongdoings and is entitled three warnings and penalties before dismissal, Mr. Izzeddin pointed out.

He said that any civil servant who believe that they are unfairly treated or dismissed from office without just reason can appeal to the High Court of Justice. But once a civil servant had been dismissed, he or she can return to office only by a Cabinet decision and after the lapse of three years after dismissal, Mr. Izzeddin added.



جمعية الحسين لرعاية وقاصيل المعاقين
يعتزم حضور البازار السنوي في فندق عمان ماربورت
يوم الأربعاء ١٦/١٢/١٩٨٧
الساعة العاشرة والنصف صباحاً

معاونات طبيك : د. نادية الحارثي، د. فاطمة الحارثي، د. نادية الحارثي، د. فاطمة الحارثي

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INF treaty in limbo

AFTER signing the treaty on intermediate range nuclear forces (INF) eliminating medium and shorter range missiles last Tuesday, President Ronald Reagan said that the historic agreement was not an "end in itself, but a beginning." The Soviet leader, Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev, said that the treaty was a "sapling" which could one day grow into an "oak of peace." Behind the two leaders' expressed optimism lies the daunting problem of reducing long-range strategic nuclear arms which, in fact, constitute the core of East-West nuclear deterrence, threatening world peace and security.

There are indications that the superpowers are willing to reach an accord on strategic arms reduction before Mr. Reagan visits Moscow next year. However, the INF treaty must first pass the ratification test in the U.S. Senate, before there could be any further movement towards reducing strategic arsenals. The treaty must be ratified by a two-thirds majority. There can be no doubt that the conservative senators, anti-INF treaty campaigners and tough administration policy advocates will necessarily join forces to make a final assault on the treaty to shelve it in limbo. Either they will try to enlist support for an outright rejection of the treaty, or attach substantial amendments to the treaty that would make it unacceptable to the Soviet Union, or try to link ratification of the treaty with regional issues, such as Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan.

The question of whether or not the anti-INF treaty lobby will be able to muster enough support on the floor of the Senate to delay ratification of the treaty cannot be underestimated. There are recent cases where U.S. presidents have failed to secure Senate ratification of treaties signed with the Soviet Union. The threshold test ban treaty of 1974, the peaceful nuclear explosions treaty of 1976 and the second strategic arms limitation treaty (SALT-II) of 1979 are not ratified. Non-ratification allows both sides to violate the provisions of the treaty, just as it happened in 1986 when in contravention of SALT-II limits, the U.S. deployed B-52 bombers capable of carrying nuclear cruise missiles.

The INF treaty has been hailed worldwide as an achievement in recent superpower arms control negotiations. Non-ratification of the treaty would certainly spell a setback not only to the process of thawing East-West relations, but also to prospects for any future arms control measures, in addition to catalysing a renewed arms spiral. If the Soviets now agree that a fifty per cent strategic arms reduction would be possible within a few months without requiring Mr. Reagan to give up his Star Wars programme, that opportunity must be seized to work out yet another treaty designed to eliminate nuclear weapons. A ready ratification of the INF treaty in the Senate would certainly give a further boost to the U.S. leadership in carrying out, in cooperation with its foremost ideological adversary, the responsibility of making the world free of nuclear weapons.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Rai: Palestinians need help

ISRAEL escalated its terrorist actions against the Arab population under its rule in an unprecedented manner since its occupation of the West Bank in 1967. In the past few days four people were killed and tens of others injured by the Israeli troops in a manifestation of hatred towards the Palestinian people and a clear sign that measures will be intensified to force the indigenous population to abandon their homeland. Israeli forces have been in the habit of stemming anti-Israeli demonstrations by resorting to arrest, but now the methods seem to have changed to killing the Arab population. But it seems the more intensive Israel's campaigns against the Palestinians the more determined the Palestinians become to resist occupation and confront aggression and terrorism. The Palestinian people do not need voices to pay tribute to their heroic deeds in the face of Israel and its atrocities but they rather need a joint Arab action and unanimous Arab decision to extend practical help to them in their present ordeal. Expressions of support and distress over the sufferings of the Palestinians can do nothing to alleviate those sufferings; and what is needed is a genuine, practical action that can deter Israel from committing atrocities and barbaric actions against the Arab people of Palestine.

Al Dustour: King guides nation

IN an interview with the Cairo newspaper Al-Ahram King Hussein touched on all Arab issues; and his views on Arab affairs were quite candid and open, reflecting Jordan's clear policies. The King called on the Arab countries to finalise an all-out supportive stand, backing Iraq in its endeavours to fend off dangers directed on the Arab Nation. He also reiterated Jordan's call for convening an international conference on the Middle East so that peace can be established in the Middle East on the basis of U.N. Security Council resolutions. In referring to the situation in Lebanon King Hussein urged all parties to the conflict to initiate a dialogue based on reason and objectivity so that a national reconciliation can be achieved. The King's interview with the Egyptian newspaper covered also the situation in the Israeli-held Arab land, the European role and the stand of the superpowers with regard to the Middle East and other regional questions. King Hussein who succeeded in bringing about agreement and consensus among Arab leaders at the Amman summit meeting last month now stands out as the leader of his nation to unity, pan-Arab action and solidarity. King Hussein is guiding the nation towards a clear path for fulfilling its aspirations.

Sawt Al Shaab: King urges joint action

KING Hussein has emphasised the need for maintaining the spirit of the Amman Summit meeting and solidarity among Arab states. In an interview with the Cairo newspaper Al-Ahram, the King said that pan-Arab efforts have to be exerted for solving the Middle East problem on the basis of U.N. resolutions and before it is too late. He said that all parties involved in the Middle East conflict, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation, ought to be invited to an international conference where they can take part in finding a formula to end the Arab-Israeli conflict and find a permanent settlement for the Palestine problem. King Hussein said that an effective Arab move in the wake of the successful summit in Amman can and should bring about big changes in the stands of different nations which can be made to help the Arabs arrive at their objectives.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

The proposed 1988 budget: Optimistic but not impossible

LAST Monday Dr. Hanna Oudeh, the minister of finance presented the 1988 budget to Parliament with a rather lengthy and cautiously worded speech. To describe the budget speech in not so many words one cannot find a better word than "optimistic." It included a run down of achievements and positive indicators but avoided problems and challenges.

The minister did not fail to point out the positive growth rate in the economy, the stability of prices in the domestic market, the reduction in trade deficit for the fourth year, the strength of the Jordanian dinar, the maintenance of foreign exchange reserves at a safe level, the relative recovery in the Amman stockexchange, the increase in bank deposits and the growth in bank's credit facilities extended to the public and private sectors.

Perhaps the government is entitled to congratulate itself for the achievements although the minister did not quantify any of them. However, it is imperative that the government should do more on other fronts in order to curb public expenditure, reduce financial deficit, create jobs and tackle unemployment, improve the environment for investment and remove the numerous inefficiencies which hinder the ability of the economy to be more flexible and be able to adjust to the new circumstances.

The minister disclosed some policies and steps taken to revitalise the economy, such as expenditure control, increase of domestic revenues, more self sufficiency of public sector corporations, financing of the five year economic and development plan, support science and technology, encouragement of domestic production, tourism and export, and adhering to the limits and allocations set by the budget. Those policies are no doubt essential provided they are vigorously implemented and observed.

Dr. Oudeh used ample time in his speech to elaborate on development projects adopted by the budget in agriculture and irrigation, industry and tourism, energy and water, education and

health, and transport and communication. The capital programme was obviously rich. No one would ask for more in the circumstances. The priority should be accorded towards the consolidation of previous costly investments in these fields and the improvement of their management and efficiency rather than the addition of more projects.

Revenue estimates were on the high side. Every revenue item is envisaged to grow in 1988 at rates ranging between 5 and 38 per cent with an overall average of 25.4 per cent.

We subscribe to the notion that revenues in 1988 will grow despite the absence of inflation. However, we are worried that the growth may be short of these ambitious levels.

High growth rate of public revenue could not happen except through one or more of the following four factors: Inflation, which is currently running at zero rate; economic growth which could not exceed 4 per cent at best; the imposition of new taxes or raising the rates, which is very unlikely; and improving the methods of tax collection, where nobody expects any miracles.

Since the government came up with these revenue figures, they became a binding decision rather than a rough estimate and the financial performance of the Ministry of Finance will be judged by its success in achieving its own figures.

Arab and foreign aid was estimated to increase by 68 per cent over the level reached in 1987. This is of course a political challenge which is neither easy nor impossible to achieve, especially after the extraordinary success of the extraordinary Arab Summit in Amman last month.

Expenditure on the other side is expected to grow by 3.2 per cent which is quite moderate had it not been preceded by an actual 5.7 per cent increase in the 1987 budget.

Capital expenditure is planned to increase by 11.7 per cent, but the inevitable delay in the implementation of projects will secure

U.S. right-wing groups mobilising to defeat INF pact

By Christopher Hanson
Reuter

WASHINGTON — U.S. right-wing groups which helped sweep President Reagan to power in 1980 are mobilising in an attempt to defeat a pact to abolish medium-range missiles that he signed with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Reagan and Gorbachev signed the treaty to scrap their intermediate-range nuclear forces (INF), the centrepiece of their Washington summit, on Tuesday.

It is the first treaty to abolish an entire class of nuclear arms. But before it can come into force, it must be ratified by a two-thirds vote of the 100-member Senate.

Right-wing groups such as the Conservative Caucus are seeking to defeat the pact with a "no" vote of at least 34 senators.

The conservatives' newly-formed anti-appeasement alliance plans a telephone, mail, radio and television drive against the treaty in home states of key senators, according to conservative caucus chairman Howard Phillips.

"We'll do everything we can and I'm confident we can prevail," he told Reuters.

Reagan, the most conservative American president of modern times, is joining ranks with key Democrats to thwart his old allies.

Many analysts doubt the treaty will be rejected outright.

But arms control backers such as deputy Senate Democratic leader Alan Cranston of California fear right-wing Republican senators could kill it indirectly with amendments Moscow would never accept — for instance measures requiring Moscow to change its human rights posture before the pact took effect.

"I believe there will be attempts to bring up amendments that (would) kill the treaty," Cranston said.

He said White House officials and key members of the Democrat-dominated Senate had begun meeting for strategy sessions on how to win ratification for the treaty.

But Reagan, 76, will have to use all his powers of influence — waning as he enters the twilight months of his term — to back up his supporters on Capitol Hill. "It will be important for the administration to stand up and be counted — they can't count on the Democrats or the man in the street to carry their water for them," said former arms control official Spurgeon Keeney, president of the private Arms Control Association.

Congressional sources said treaty-killing amendments would probably include proposals to: — Force the White House to certify Moscow's compliance with other treaties, including the unratified SALT-2 agreement, before the INF pact took effect. The White House has accused Moscow of violating that and other pacts.

— Require the Soviet Union to remove its troops from Afghanistan before the treaty was implemented. Gorbachev has said he hoped to withdraw the troops,

but Moscow would never accept such an ultimatum, Cranston said.

— Bolster safeguards against treaty cheating, with each side able to inspect any site in the other's country at a moment's notice. Political analysts say neither superpower would accept such an intrusive regime.

The treaty as signed allows unprecedented on-site inspections, but these are limited to certain areas. Hard-line former assistant defence secretary Richard Perle told reporters if Moscow wanted to cheat it could simply hide illicit INF missiles in other places.

— Delaying treaty implementation until the conventional forces of the Soviet Union and its Warsaw pact allies were cut to achieve a conventional military balance in Europe.

Vienna talks on conventional force cuts have been going on for years. Arms experts doubt the issue will be resolved soon.

If such an amendment were to pass, it would kill the INF treaty and destroy prospects for future pacts, Cranston said.

"The next step is a treaty to cut intercontinental weapons by 50 per cent, but the Soviets aren't going to sign off on that until they find out if the Senate can handle this lesser treaty," he said.

"And the Reagan administration won't sign off until they know they (can) get a lesser treaty through the Senate."

Many analysts say that if the Soviet Union cannot achieve a disarmament treaty in the teeth of right-wing U.S. hostility with the backing of a hardline conservative president they will despair of a deal with a more liberal successor.

Violent anti-occupation protests engulf W. Bank and Gaza

(Continued from page 1)

demonstrations, Israeli army radio reported.

A general strike was also reported in Rafah, where soldiers shot and seriously wounded a 17-year-old demonstrator, reports said.

Soldiers fired tear-gas grenades at a group of 300 women who brought food to the Jabalya refugee camp where three Arabs were wounded by Israeli troops on Friday.

The Palestine Press Service said a 28-year-old Arab was wounded in Hebron.

Palestinian merchants in Hebron and Nablus closed their shops in commercial strikes. Palestinian shops also remained closed in Arab Jerusalem.

Municipal authorities in Nablus announced a mourning over the death of three Palestinians, including children aged 11 and 14, who were killed by Israeli soldiers at the Balata refugee camp on Friday.

The camp remained sealed under an army curfew imposed on Friday.

In Jabalya, an international relief worker said he saw Israeli troops drive through the camp with a blindfolded Palestinian boy tied to the front of their jeep.

The boy was arrested during demonstrations in defiance of the curfew at Jabalya, the eyewitness told Reuters.

Demonstrators near the Islamic University in Gaza threw petrol bombs at military vehicles but no damage was caused, army radio said.

Troops broke into Bureij refugee camp after Palestinians blocked entrances with burning tyres and threw stones, Palestinian sources said.

In an Arab Jerusalem neighbourhood, police dispersed protesters who burned tyres and set up roadblocks, reports said.

The new wave of protest was originally sparked on Tuesday, when four Gaza labourers were

killed in a road accident with an Israeli truck soon after a Jewish settler was stabbed in Gaza City. Residents suspected the crash was an act of vengeance.

Meanwhile politicians, press and Palestinians in the Arab World reacted with fury to Israeli actions in the occupied territories.

Palestinian leaders threatened reprisals, while Egypt told Israel on Saturday that violence would only breed violence and impede efforts for a Middle East peace settlement.

At the United Nations, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) urged the Security Council to halt Israel's criminal acts in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Syrian-based Palestinian groups vowed to step up resistance. A spokesman for the Fateh dissident group led by Abu Musa said: "The new few days or months will witness a noticeable escalation of armed struggle inside occupied territories and in every place where enemy forces exist."

Another senior Palestinian leader described the shooting of the Palestinians as "a bitter fact that requires the hardest reprisal ever."

In Amman, Occupied Territories Affairs Minister Marwan Daudin told Reuters: "It's no use the Israelis looking outside for an explanation of what is happening inside."

He described the protests as "the natural reaction of unarmed civilians to continual, daily harassment and the violation of international conventions ruling the treatment of people under occupation."

"It's a very inhuman approach that can't be accepted and it becomes disgusting when you look at the measures they take — shooting a young child for throwing a stone at an Israeli car," Mr. Daudin said.

"It seems the occupation authorities have lost control of their nerves."

savings. It has become habitual over the years that recurring expenses would be exceeded and capital expenditure would not be spent. This year we don't expect an overrun on recurring expenses, as the estimates were rather realistic because the government did not have in mind more supplementary budgets for the year. Therefore the notion that the deficit may be reduced through savings in the expenditure could be taken more seriously this time. In fact the reduction of public expenditure is not only possible but necessary as well.

Deficit in the budget was officially estimated at JD 66.9 million. The development loans were not included in the deficit, otherwise it would have reached JD 213.2 million. However, if we only include the net indebtedness, i.e., the new borrowings less repayments, we would find that the net loans would be JD 40.3 million. This would raise the overall deficit to JD 110.2 million or 10 per cent of the total expenditure. In fact the actual deficit may be lower if less amounts were withdrawn to finance development as was expected.

One also notices that the budget speech did not address certain issues. The minister did not cover the performance of the economy in 1987 by providing figures of economic growth rate, the size of investments, expatriates' remittances, growth in exports, the balance of payments, change in unemployment, etc. The speech did not justify the variation between the budget estimates and the actual figures for 1987; it did not shed any light on the taxation policies for 1988; it did not spell out a fiscal policy and the interaction between such policy and other monetary, commercial and developmental policies; it also did not name the priorities of the economic policy at this stage. The budget speech did not satisfy our curiosity over the soft Japanese loan of \$300 million, the loan's certainty, form, duration or conditions.

The 1988 draft budget sounds reasonable in the present circumstances and seems to be the best in a not-so-good situation.

U.N. issues new call for conference

(Continued from page 1)

By a vote of 82-23, with 43 abstentions, the assembly adopted a resolution that, as in previous years, said Israel was not a peace-loving member state and again called on all countries to apply a range of sanctions, including severing diplomatic, trade and cultural relations.

It also called on all states to "cease forthwith, individually and collectively, all dealings with Israel in order to totally isolate it in all fields."

A final resolution, endorsed by 140-3 with seven abstentions, said Israel's decision to impose its jurisdiction and administration on Jerusalem was illegal and therefore null and void.

It deplored the transfer by some countries of their diplomatic missions to Jerusalem — most are located in Tel Aviv — in violation of a 1980 decision by the Security Council after Israel passed a law declaring the Holy City its "eternal and indivisible capital."

The negative votes were cast by Israel, Costa Rica and El Salvador. Abstaining were the United States, Cameroon, Ivory Coast, Honduras, Haiti, Liberia and Malawi.

ways of increasing consultations between Egypt and the PLO.

A Palestinian spokesman said he told the team, headed by PLO Executive Committee member Mahmoud Abbas, that Egypt would work to get Israeli action against the Palestinians stopped.

Mr. Abdul Meguid's message to Mr. Peres said violence in the West Bank and Gaza would breed more violence and would impede efforts for a comprehensive Middle East settlement.

The U.N. Security Council met in emergency session Friday on the disturbances but took no action and adjourned until Monday.

Among the 22 countries that abstained on the resolution were 10 of the 12 members of the European Community: Belgium, Britain, Denmark, France, West Germany, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, The Netherlands and Portugal.

Greece and Spain broke ranks and voted for the resolution. Speaking on behalf of the members of community, Ambassador Ole Biering of Denmark said they strongly supported all moves likely to improve the prospects for the early convening of a Middle East peace conference.

But in the absence of agreement by all the parties concerned, community members were unable fully to endorse the assembly resolution, Mr. Biering said.

Other abstentions were cast by Australia, Canada, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Grenada, Iceland, New Zealand, Norway, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Samoa.

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Ext. 223

Restrictive veil lifts a little for today's Saudi Arabian woman

National Geographic

WASHINGTON — She still cannot board an airplane or check into a hotel in her own country without written permission from a male relative.

She cannot drive a car. She is forbidden by custom to have her picture taken, as National Geographic photographer Jodi Cobb repeatedly found out.

Although today's Saudi Arabian woman usually still covers her face or head, the veil of secrecy is lifting a little, reports Marianne Alireza, who lived in a Muslim household from 1945 to 1958 as the American wife of a young Saudi of prominent family.

"It may not look like much to the 'liberated' Western eye," she says in the October National Geographic. "But women are doing things now that were unimaginable in my day." They are, for instance, appearing in public in mixed company.

"Remembering the strict segregation of the past," Mrs. Alireza writes, "I am still amazed at mixed society in public." Married couples shop together, dine in restaurants, and enjoy family picnics on the shores of the Red Sea. It is "a notable difference from the days of men with men in public and women with women in homes."

Girls attend public schools, open to them only since 1960, although co-education still ends after age 7. Some women work outside the home and pursue careers, but usually in jobs in which they won't have face-to-face contact with men.

Even though 700,000 Saudi Arabian girls now go to school, and thousands of women have earned university degrees and play a role in the progress of the country, Mrs. Alireza writes, "This is still a country where the man's word is usually final, where even 6-year-old girls cover their

heads."

The oil-rich kingdom of Saudi Arabia has a new face as a result of development, modernisation, and industrialisation.

Islam "is the state, the moral and civil code," Mrs. Alireza writes. "It is all matters big and small, ever imbued with an awareness of God's will and word."

A powerful and strict group of Islamic religious leaders called the ulama advises the royal family on every aspect of life in the kingdom.

Public-morality committees, the regional Societies for the Preservation of Virtue and the Prevention of Vice, ensure compliance with religious requirements. Morals police patrol cities to make sure that businesses close at prayer times and that women are properly covered and stay out of places such as popular disco-music cassette shops.

But desert Bedouin women, who live out of sight of morals police, slip behind the wheel of pickup trucks — the only Saudi women who drive.

Curiously, in Islam women have had independent legal status. From behind the veil, they have been able to inherit and own property. As the Saudi nation prospered, so did their investments and holdings, leading to a proliferation of women's banks.

Women also have had the right to divorce for certain reasons, although this has been difficult to achieve in the male-dominated society. Man-created traditions and practices, Mrs. Alireza reports, often have denied women their rights.

By contrast, a man can still divorce his wife by saying "I divorce you" three times. He does not have to state any reason.

Most Saudi marriages are alliances between families. Islamic law gives a woman final approval over her family's choice.

Legally, a Muslim man can have four wives simultaneously — if he can give each wife equal material goods and equal time. So monogamy is by far the norm, Mrs. Alireza says, although divorce rates are on the rise.

New to education, women are excelling in the classroom, Mrs. Alireza learned. Girls consistently outdo boys in scholastic testing, and in one graduating class, girls — outnumbered 30 to 1 — took the top five places.

But at the King Saud University College for Women in the capital city of Riyadh, courses taught by male professors are conducted via closed-circuit television, because women students may not be seen unveiled.

Students arrive wearing their black veils and cloaks, but once inside shed their street wear, revealing brightly coloured frocks underneath. Each student has her own desk-top TV and direct-line telephone to the teacher, for asking him questions.

Since 1980 women have been barred from study abroad unless accompanied by a male family member, because of Saudi government concern that they are being unfavourably influenced in Western societies.

Today's educated women, Mrs. Alireza writes, might still wear the veil — some displaying insignia of Paris designers — and they might still be the wives and mothers they have always been. But they are also teachers, computer technicians, social workers, laboratory technicians, physicists, engineers, bankers, and filmmakers.

Although most work in all-female facilities, some doctors, nurses, administrators, radio announcers, and journalists work with men. Long skirts, long sleeves, and head scarves are customary for women on the job. In a two-hour luncheon with

A woman behind the wheel is a rare sight in Saudi Arabia, where females are forbidden to drive. The only Saudi women known to drive are desert Bedouins who live out of sight of the kingdom's morals police. This woman drives the tribe's water truck, which has replaced camels and treks on foot.

professional women, Mrs. Alireza heard that government policies for women are becoming more restrictive, that there are efforts to deflate curricula to bare-bones studies geared to making better wives and mothers, that formerly productive training and study facilities are being shut or limited, and that access to the workplace is narrowing stymieing the careers of highly qualified women.

At a debate at the King Saud women's college, one woman commented: "It is a part of life that change is coming. It might take longer, it might take shorter, but we are hoping for the best for our society, within our religion, within our morals, within our readiness to foresee and digest change. Because then it will be for the better."

To which Mrs. Alireza adds, "Inshallah" — God willing.

Destruction of ancient civilisations: What was the cause?

By Ivetta Useinova

AN ORIGINAL answer to this question, long agitating many scholars, has been offered by well-known Leningrad geochemist doctor of geology and mineralogy Sergei Neruchev.

"There is every reason to believe," says the scientist, "that only uranium could have been blamed for many dramatic events in human history."

"Uranium and Life in the History of Earth" is the title of Sergei Neruchev's monograph, which sums up his own and other Soviet and foreign scientists' findings and advances his hypothesis about the special role which this radioactive element may have played in the evolution of life on our planet.

The history of the Earth, says of scientist, can be divided into some regular intervals of time during which the radioactivity of the natural environment increased by many times, with uranium content rising by tens and even hundreds of times. It was precisely in those periods, he thinks, that the biosphere had its crucial moments when all of the planet's organic world changed radically. Global ecological disasters erased for ever whole species of terrestrial flora and fauna, giving rise instead to entirely new forms of animals completely different from their predecessors.

The "established" inhabitants, in the view of the author, died out suddenly, as was the case with the dinosaurs, as a result of direct ionising radiation and radioactive poisoning. The "newcomers" on the planet — the first skeletal organisms, quadrupeds, birds and mammals — are the result of probably a powerful mutation process. All these "openings," as Neruchev ascertained, occurred simultaneously with radioactivity rises in the biosphere. Significant enough, the appearance of first men with the presence or sometimes predominance of Homo sapiens traits coincided with one of the uranium-accumulation periods, as established by Neruchev. This coincidence, as well as many other facts, enables, believes the scientist, the following conclusion to be made: Man himself is probably the product of radioactive epochs.

"People have raised themselves to the rank of King of Nature," observes Sergei Neruchev. "In biological terms, the human being is just a regular component of the biosphere. And, understandably, events in the history of the biosphere could not but affect the biography of humanity, of the whole of civilisation."

Radiation — known today as the most potent mutagenic factor — operated in this quality, claims Neruchev, also in the past geological epochs, determining the entire course and certain pattern of development of the planet's organic world.

"All new animal species unquestionably arose at once, without prior preparation, and could be produced only by mutagenesis," asserts Neruchev. "This is proved for example by the fact that the organic world changed in those epochs at one and the same time on land and at sea, with all

organisms involved, from unicellular algae 10 to 50 microns in size to 50-ton dinosaurs. The mass extinction of gigantic reptiles was not a single or extraordinary episode in the planet's history. As I calculated it, in the Phanerozoic epoch alone — that is, over the past 600 million years — such cataclysms have occurred at least twenty times, and all of them have been associated with uranium."

Neruchev came across the "uranium connection" in past biospheric events while studying geochemical anomalies thought for a long time to be mysterious. It was not understandable why these deposits — no more than 20 to 25 metres thick but extensive in territory — contained the innumerable remnants of micro-organisms. This unusual presence of organic matter in the rocks attracted Neruchev's special attention when in line of his duty — the scientist heads the oil and gas genesis and geochemistry department at the USSR Institute of Geological and Oil Prospecting Institute — he began study of the oil and gas bearing Bazhenov formation in Western Siberia. The discovery of the "Siberian phenomenon" was a sensation mainly because of its unusually ample organic filling. Extending over an area of more than one million square kilometres, it has in it up to 20 per cent of organic matter, as against the 0.6 per cent found in ordinary sediments.

Astronomical masses of organic matter, out of proportion to the volume of containing rocks, were found to be a feature of many other deposits scattered all over the world and dating from different epochs. Evidently, at a time when the deposits were first formed, concludes the researcher, the planet must have had some unusual conditions. What were those conditions?

In studying the "odd sediments," Neruchev hit upon some surprising circumstances, which, formed into a chain in time and space, suggested an unexpected conclusion: The geochemical anomalies proved to be concomitants of turning points in the history of the organic world. The scientist could explain this far from accidental circumstances when he discovered that the layers rich in organic matter in sedimentary rock also had in them an unusually high concentrations of another substance — this time uranium. The conclusion was unequivocal: Contrary to the ingrained view about the fairly permanent content of uranium on the Earth's surface and in the hydrosphere both at present and in remote geological epochs, this content actually changed repeatedly. And the amount of this element in large seas and probably in the entire world ocean increased manifold precisely in epochs when organic matter was accumulated in an intensive way.

Neruchev's balance analysis shows that the intensive accumulation of uranium in sediments could proceed only when its content in the habitat environment of organisms exceeded the present level by tens and hundreds of times.

"Many of the older riddles in the history of the living world of the planet can be elucidated if we try to look at them through the prism of new sciences — radiobiology and radiation genetics," says Neruchev. "What then appeared mysterious and even supernatural can today get a scientific explanation."

Radioactive substances are at present known to possess a miraculous effect on all biological entities. It has been proved that response of the biosphere to ionising radiation may take the form of both depletion of living biota and of the extreme bioproductivity of the protozoa. All these changes found in a uranium-polluted natural environment were detected by Neruchev in the periods when uranium-bearing deposits full of organic matter were formed.

The fact that at least three short periods of enhanced radioactivity of the natural environment occurred during human history makes it possible, in the view of Neruchev, to take a new look at a number of past events. It seems quite likely that precisely uranium pollution of their habitats caused mass migrations of peoples known in history. This factor could also be operative in the decline of many highly developed ancient civilisations.

Sergei Neruchev has compiled a special table in which, taking the distribution of uranium and organic matter in the sediments of the Mediterranean and Black Seas, he tried to identify them with stages in the development of humanity and changes in the archaeological cultures.

Curiously enough, the table indicates that a maximum of uranium in the sediments 7,100 to 5,000 years ago is matched exactly by apparent gaps in cultures prevalent in the Eastern Mediterranean, the Black Sea coast and the Middle East. For example, the developed Neolithic in Palestine, with its typical settled way of life, numerous villages and even towns, among them the famous Jericho, suddenly suffered a decline. The population turned to a nomadic existence. Significantly, that was also the time when the well-developed agricultural culture of Hassari in Northern Mesopotamia, a number of cultures in the Eastern Mediterranean and some large cities in Anatolia collapsed.

Another and perhaps the shortest uranium peak, recorded some three thousand years ago, marks the decline of late Hellas, the destruction of Troy by Greeks, the downfall of the state of Hittites in the Middle East, and the disappearance of the culture of Harappa and Mohenjodaro in the Indus valley.

Admittedly, stresses the scientist, all these conclusions are hypothetical and need facts to support them. But one thing, in his view, is absolutely obvious: The existence of geochemical anomalies and of matching periodic changes in the world of living things. The role which these events may have played in the destinies of mankind must undoubtedly have been considerable (APN).

Kloske, Israel's new man at Pentagon?

By Claudia Wright

WASHINGTON — Israel has new ally at the Pentagon. Dennis Kloske, a 33-year-old with a Harvard degree and three years of incomplete study at Oxford, has shot to the top of the Pentagon hierarchy with no military expertise, no record of technical skills or military command, no published writing, and almost no Washington experience.

In August, without publicity, Kloske was named the deputy under secretary of defence for planning and resources, with responsibility for U.S. armaments planning and for defence cooperation between the U.S. and its NATO allies. How a young man with such limited qualifications could occupy such a post is explained by Kloske's powerful patrons in the U.S. government, and by the importance Israel presently attaches to getting the U.S. to allow unlimited access for the Israeli military establishment to NATO military contracts, NATO technological developments, and eventually perhaps even NATO war plans.

The Pentagon post Kloske occupies is one that had been held for several years by a former rabbi, Dov Zakheim. Zakheim was one of several Jews working at the Pentagon for under secretary of defence, Fred Ikle, a naturalised American of Swiss origin. The group included two men who have been investigated for spying for Israel, Stephen Bryen and Richard Perle; at one time the group also included Noel Koch, once the Washington lobbyist for the Zionist organisation of America. As the Reagan administration draws to a close, Perle, Koch and Zakheim have all resigned to become consultants to private industry. Kloske is from an entirely fresh generation of Israel allies now moving into the Pentagon to replace those who are leaving.

His background is unusual for most Pentagon officials, but similar to the others in the Ikle group. He was born in Rome in 1954, and he has lived outside the U.S. for most of his life. Associates say his father was a U.S. diplomat posted in Europe. Kloske speaks fluent French and Spanish, and some German; no Hebrew. He received a B.A. degree from Harvard in 1976, and won a Rhodes Scholarship to Oxford University, where he studied between 1977 and 1980. In 1980 he also studied at the French war college.

Kloske did not receive a degree at that time, and his Pentagon file indicates that he has been a candidate for a Ph.D. degree since 1984. Several of Israel's allies in the Defence Department have had a similar pattern of academic study in Britain or France — Perle spent a year at the London school of Economics

without taking a degree, and two of Perle's deputies, one born in Minsk, Soviet Union, and in Geneva, Switzerland, spent even longer periods abroad on doctoral research. Former U.S. Navy intelligence officer and convicted spy for Israel, Jonathan Pollard, received part of his training in espionage while studying at an institute in Paris. Pollard cut short his academic studies to join U.S. intelligence in 1979.

Kloske's academic studies were halted in 1981 when he returned from England to Washington to become the executive assistant to David Abshire. It has been under Abshire's patronage that Kloske's career in the U.S. government has taken off. Abshire is a well-connected Republican, who held a State Department post during the Nixon administration and went on to direct the centre for strategic and international studies of Washington for a decade between 1973 and 1983. The Reagan administration appointed him ambassador to NATO in 1983, and he took Kloske with him, where he was given the title of special assistant, and then promoted to "special adviser for armaments." Last December, at the height of the Iran arms scandal, Abshire became special counselor to the president, with the job of aiding the administration under the pressure of the Iran investigations. Once again Kloske accompanied his patron, becoming his adviser at the White House. When Abshire decided to leave in April, after just three months, Kloske was given a Pentagon post as special adviser to the deputy secretary of defence for armaments. Veteran Pentagon officials say they are unaware of Kloske's expertise in the armaments field. His new title as deputy under secretary was announced Aug. 2.

Pentagon and congressional sources say Kloske's job involves the compilation of the annual "defence guidance" — the Pentagon's overall strategy for budget and planning decisions — and of the report which the secretary of defence makes to Congress each year. Kloske is also chairman of the defence cooperation working group; this is a group of U.S. government officials involved in cooperative military research and development with the NATO treaty allies, Japan and Australia.

For several years now, Israel has been pressing its friends at the Pentagon and in Congress to allow Israel's military industries to take a share of NATO contracts for arms, equipment, and maintenance work. In 1986 Congress voted to set aside \$40 million of a programme to finance U.S.-NATO military research and development; the money was offi-

cially intended by Congress to help "major non-NATO" allies; in practice, it was designed as a further subsidy for Israeli military industries. However, the NATO allies are opposed to the Israeli push for contracts because the NATO member states believe Israel may use its congressional power to undercut NATO companies. No money was awarded to the Israelis in the financial year just ended, and Congress has criticised the Pentagon for not doing more "to explore worthwhile cooperative projects with major non-NATO allies."

Kloske's predecessor Zakheim attracted criticism in Israel for his opposition to the "Lavi" fighter-bomber, the Israeli aircraft financed by the U.S. until American objections to the huge cost overruns compelled the Israelis to cancel the project a few weeks ago. To offset the losses to Israel's defence industries, Zakheim has since advocated new U.S. assistance to Israel.

One of the Israeli schemes Zakheim supports is U.S. funding — as part of the "Star Wars" programme — for an Israeli effort to build a missile system for attacking short-range battlefield missiles. Estimated to cost at least \$200 million this system is defended by the Israelis and their Pentagon allies as necessary to protect against Syria's ballistic missile systems. Zakheim claims the Israeli scheme would have "tremendous value to... America's European allies, to assist in the defence of Atlantic alliance airfields..." Zakheim also supports Israeli demands for at least \$100 million a year in military maintenance contracts from NATO for Israeli companies.

These and other Israeli demands were on the agenda of the meeting of the U.S.-Israel joint security assistance planning group, scheduled in Washington early in October. Gen. David Ivory, secretary-general of Israel's Defence Ministry, asked for a postponement because his son had been killed in an air-crash.

Pentagon officials, participate in the meetings of this group, but Kloske's role is not yet clear. Pentagon sources have confirmed that Kloske has visited Israel in the past and that his current responsibilities cover defence cooperation with non-NATO, as well as NATO allies. It is believed that Kloske will be as active in U.S.-Israeli negotiations as his predecessor Zakheim was. Without recognised technical expertise in the military issues involved, Kloske's principal qualification for the task is that he will do what his superiors tell him. Whether these orders originate in Tel Aviv remains to be seen — Arab News.

Japanese firm envisages man-made state in middle of Pacific

By Janet Snyder

Reuter

TOKYO — A metropolis, like another Atlantis, will rise in mid-ocean. At least, that's what one major Japanese construction company hopes.

The Shimizu Construction Company, Japan's biggest in terms of sales, has plans to create an independent city-state the size of Tokyo in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, far from any existing land.

The territory, with a land area of 700 square kilometres, would be constructed by building a circular dam and sucking all the water out of the middle. The land would be about 100 metres below sea level.

To build it would require more than \$1,100 billion and at least 12 years of work, the company said. The project, dubbed "Marinnation," would be home to about one million people and would be equipped with two airports to ferry in tourists, said Shimizu engineer Tadahiko Okumura. The planners say they also want to build a space port.

It all sounds rather far-fetched and it isn't clear how such an unprecedented entity would square with international law. Okumura says: "There will be many political and social questions that have to be answered before it all goes through. We would have to find some means of gaining a worldwide consensus on Marinnation."

But neither Okumura nor the five other members of the project team consider the scheme — recalling the mythical lost civilisation of Atlantis that some say sank beneath the waves in antiquity — at all pie-in-the-sky.

Shimizu Construction is taking it seriously enough to chip in 30 million yen (\$2.3 million) in research funds to Okumura's team.

"We won't be able to undertake construction of such a huge project by ourselves," said his colleague Hitoshi Kawashima. "The idea is to invite tenders by companies from all over the world, not just Japanese firms." As they see it, Marinnation

would not be a Japanese colony but a free port to rival Hong Kong.

While Marinnation would be a separate country, Okumura hastens to add that it would be firmly in the Western camp and could be host for U.S. military bases in the style of Britain's Indian Ocean island territory of Diego Garcia.

"We could act as a buffer zone in the region with the Soviets getting friendly with other islands in the area," he said.

At the same time, he added, Marinnation would belong to all the people of the world and could serve as the new home for the United Nations, the World Bank and other international organisations.

It was not clear who Okumura and Kawashima thought would want to live in their sand castle utopia, which they said would be thousands of miles from the nearest land.

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Liverpool stretches 1st division lead to six points

LONDON (Agencies) — England winger John Barnes continued to be the scourge of opposing defences this season, scoring twice as English First Division leaders Liverpool squandered a two-goal lead at Southampton on Saturday.

The only compensation Liverpool could take from being held to a 2-2 draw was that they extended their unbeaten league run to 18 matches.

With their closest pursuers Arsenal playing on Sunday, Liverpool stretched their lead in the English First Division to six points.

Neighbours Everton, the only side to have beaten Liverpool this season, took advantage of the inactivity of Queen's Park Rangers and Nottingham Forest to climb into third place with a 3-0 win over Derby.

While Scotland international Gordon Strachan scored twice in Manchester United's 3-1 win over Oxford which lifted them two places to fourth.

In Scotland, Glasgow Celtic scored twice in the final few minutes through Dave Walker and Paul McCrory at home to second-placed Hearts to retain top spot in the Premier League.

Celtic and Hearts shared the spoils in a rousing 2-2 draw, but

the ugly side of British soccer was again very much to the fore with 11 sendings-off.

Four players were dismissed after fighting broke out in the Third Division game between Brentford and Mansfield and Portsmouth's Kevin Dillon, sent off against Everton two weeks ago, was one of two players shown the red card in the 1-1 draw with Newcastle.

He and Newcastle centre half Peter Jackson were sent off after trading punches midway through the first half.

Liverpool, having conceded a miserly nine goals in the league this season, must have thought they were on their way to victory number 14 when Barnes turned on his magic to shoot them 2-0 ahead after 38 minutes at the Dell.

First, he volleyed home a John Aldridge cross in the 11th minute and then he rounded off a six-man move by swapping passes with Ray Houghton and firing in off a post.

Colin Clarke raised Southampton's spirits by heating goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar with a looping header two minutes before the break and Andy Townsend tied up the scores with a first-time shot from the edge of the penalty box in the 71st minute.

Derby's defeat at Everton ended a six-match unbeaten run which had carried them from near the foot of the division to a healthy mid-table spot. Everton never looked back after Ian Snodin had put them ahead with a 25-metre shot in the 28th minute.

Liverpool's unbeaten record, hardly in danger for most of the first half, finally was preserved by Steve Nicol's last-minute clearance off the line from Matthew le Tissier's header.

The "reds" had dominated the early stages. John Barnes volleying them into the lead after 11 minutes and scoring a magnificent second when he finished off a breathtaking six-man move in the 38th minute. But then Liverpool prevented Southampton with a lifeline. Colin Clarke deceiving goalkeeper Bruce Grobbelaar with a looping 43rd-minute header.

Swede swims to victory in European Cup heats

MONACO (R) — Swede Anders Holmertz, who deposed West German Michael Gross as European 200 metres freestyle champion, led qualifiers for the 400 metres freestyle final in the European Cup short-course swimming meeting on Saturday.

Gross, opting out of individual freestyle events in Monaco, reached the final of the 200 metres butterfly without trouble, coming second in his heat behind Ondrej Bures of Czechoslovakia.

In the 400 freestyle, Holmertz and Briton Kevin Boyd set the pace as former world and Olympic champion Vladimir Salnikov of the Soviet Union was fourth fastest overall, taking third place in his heat behind Holmertz and West German Stefan Pfeiffer.

Holmertz clocked three minutes 45.13 seconds, with Boyd on 3:45.33, Pfeiffer 3:46.82 and Salnikov 3:46.99.

Salnikov, 27, has won the 400 and 1,500 events five times apiece since the European Cup was first held in 1980 but Holmertz and Boyd looked very strong in the heats with the finals to follow the same day.

Canadians triumph in men's downhill

SANTA CRISTINA, Italy (AP) — Rob Boyd finished first and Brian Stemmler third to lead a Canadian triumph in men's World Cup downhill skiing Saturday in this northern Italian resort.

Boyd, 21, from Whistler Mountain, B.C., got the second victory of his career on the same track where first won last season by flashing down the 3,445-metre Sasling course in 2 minutes and 2.29 seconds.

Defending World Cup overall champion Pirmin Zurbriggen of Switzerland was the runner-up, finishing in 2:02.50. Stemmler skied his best downhill ever to place third in 2:03.07.

It was the second time as runner-up for Zurbriggen, who had placed behind teammate Daniel Mahrer in last Monday's opening downhill of the season, in Val d'Isere.

Norway's Ian Einar Torsten, a second-group starter as No. 20, was a surprising fourth ahead of Italy's No. 1 downhill, Michael Mair. Torsten finished 1.35 seconds behind the winner, while Mair, troubled by an aching left knee, came in 1.49 seconds behind.

Marc Girardelli of Luxembourg, who had been among the fastest skiers in practice Thursday and Friday, took sixth place, 1.61 seconds slower than Boyd.

Leonard Stock, a former Olympic champion, was the best Austrian performer, coming in seventh, ahead of West German Markus Wasmeier. World downhill champion Peter Mueller of Switzerland edged a third Canadian, Felix Belczyk, for ninth place.

The second place in Saturday's race, the fourth of the 1987-88 men's competition, gave Zurbriggen 49 points and second place to the overall cup standings, one point behind Italy's Alberto Tomba, who piled up 50 points winning a slalom and a giant slalom in Sestriere, Italy, last month.

22nd chess game ends in shortest draw

SEVILLE, Spain (R) — The 22nd game of the World Chess Championship between titleholder Garry Kasparov and challenger Anatoly Karpov was agreed drawn after just 19 moves on Friday, giving the shortest result of the match.

Kasparov, 24, offered the draw, ending the game after only two and a quarter hours of play.

Karpov, 36, looked pleased at having neutralised his opponent's advantage of the first move so easily.

Kasparov was obviously upset after the game, leaving the Lope de Vega theatre without doing his scheduled post-game interview

with Spanish Television.

The match score remains tied at 11-11, with three wins and 16 draws for each player. In the event of a 12-12 deadlock at the end of the 24-game series, Kasparov was the champion's advantage of keeping the crown.

"Kasparov obviously doesn't want to play chess, he only wants to reach 12-12. This is very dangerous for him," English grandmaster Raymond Keene told Reuters.

Spanish international master Ricardo Calvo said: "Both players are very nervous — especially Kasparov. The position was dead so Kasparov decided to forget it

and think about the next one." Karpov pondered for 37 minutes over his 8th move, playing black in a queen's gambit declined. He then unleashed a simplifying manoeuvre that equalised the game.

According to chess experts Kasparov's early draw offer indicated he was unhappy with the lack of success of his opening system.

The 23rd game, which gives Karpov the advantage of the white pieces, is scheduled for Monday at 16:30 local time.

Karpov still has his final time-out, which he may use at his discretion to postpone play.

England, Netherlands offered chance for revenge

ZURICH (R) — England and The Netherlands, two of Europe's most improved teams, were offered opportunities to avenge famous defeats when the qualifying draw for the 1990 World Cup finals in Italy was made on Saturday.

England, beaten and eliminated by Poland in the qualifying stages leading up to the 1974 finals, were drawn in a four-team group with the Poles again, plus Sweden and Albania.

The group will reduce the menace of England's notorious army of travelling fans to a minimum.

The draw, conducted in a spectacular show business atmosphere, also gave The Netherlands the chance for revenge following their defeat by West Germany in the 1974 final. In that match, they led from the first minute but were beaten.

The draw was tough for England and The Netherlands in other respects as they face the need to qualify in some style if they fail to win in their groups. The runners-up in the three four-team qualifying groups of the European section are not certain to qualify — only the two with the best records go through to Italy.

S. Korean stages 14th defence of WBC title

SEOUL (R) — South Korea's Chang Jung-Koo, champion for more than four years, makes the 14th defence of his World Boxing Council (WBC) light-flyweight title against Mexican Hitter Isidro Perez in Taejeon on Sunday.

Chang, who took the title from Hilario Zapata of Panama in March 1983, is poised to break the Asian record of 13 successful defences by former World Boxing Association (WBA) flyweight champion Yokio Kushiken of Japan.

He equalled the record in June when he knocked out Colombian Agustin Garcia in the 10th round.

"I will save my energy in the early rounds and go for a knockout as I did against Garcia," said Chang whose speed and technique are expected to see him through against Isidro, noted for his punching power.

"Chang is in his best form ever. He is all set with about 150 rounds of sparring, although he has to avoid a tough showdown in early on," said his trainer Ilum Hyon-Ho.

Chang has lost only once in 35 bouts and has scored knockout wins in his last three title defences.

Isidro's record is 42 wins, 35 inside the distance, three draws and three defeats.

The champion will get \$140,000 for the scheduled 12-round fight against \$15,000 for the challenger.

Yugoslav soccer ace celebrates his 'new life'

BELGRADE (R) — "I feel like I have just been born all over again," Yugoslav international Refik Sabanadzovic said quietly. "Now in this new life I just want to play soccer again."

The giant 22-year-old midfielder was speaking less than three weeks after recovering from a four-day coma and a narrow escape from death — but already yearning to resume playing for First Division club Red Star of Belgrade.

Sabanadzovic suffered terrible head injuries when he collided with best friend and former teammate Zoran Sliskovic in a league game against Zeljeznicar of Sarajevo on Nov. 15.

As the two opposing players both went for a high ball, Sabanadzovic's temple smashed into Sliskovic's hipbone, causing brain damage which could easily have killed him.

Doctors said Sabanadzovic survived the near-fatal blow only because of his superb physical condition.

The accident was another in a chain of misfortunes that kept Sabanadzovic out of several important international matches last month.

Last but not least

First he suffered food poisoning along with four teammates after they ate a cake given them by a fan. That kept him out of the squad for the European Football Union (UEFA) cup clash between Brugge of Belgium and Red Star, currently third in the Yugoslav League at the mid-season break.

He also missed a European Championship qualifier between Yugoslavia and Northern Ireland. A sprained ankle then forced him out of the game against England, which Yugoslavia lost 4-1.

Sabanadzovic began his soccer career in Titograd in southwest Yugoslavia before joining Zeljeznicar in 1984 and then moving to Red Star last August.

This year he played for Yugoslavia against Turkey in Split and versus England at Wembley. But just as he appeared to be forging

a permanent place in the national team came the chain of disaster, culminating in the horrific collision with Sliskovic.

Consequence

His life as well as his career hung by a thread after the accident but his courage and fitness pulled him through and last Friday he walked, albeit somewhat shakily, out of the hospital.

"I am used to being in good shape," he said in a telephone interview with Reuters. "It was awful to feel my knees tremble as I walked from the hospital. But, I was happy to be alive again. And the pain slowly died away."

First he did a light walk around Sarajevo town centre with his parents, three brothers and several close friends, and then they all went home to Titograd — and he began planning a return to playing soccer.

Back to life

"If doctors give the go-ahead, I will start training with Red Star next spring," he said. "I trust medical orders."

"I trust them totally," he said. "I owe them my life. They pulled me out when everything seemed to be lost, so I will obey them to the letter." Doctors will examine him again later this month and

map out plans for his further recovery and rehabilitation into soccer.

"I don't want to take too much risk," he said. "I want to play soccer again, but preferably as a normal person."

Sabanadzovic described unusually vivid memories of the accident and coma, which amazed doctors accustomed to coma patients being unable to recall the immediate past.

Reminiscence

"I think I had a touch of 'deja vu' before the game. I told my friends I didn't feel like playing at all," he said. "Before joining Red Star this year, I spent four seasons in Zeljeznicar and am still emotionally tied to the Sarajevo players and fans."

"I felt I would play only half-heartedly against my old teammates, but I am a professional. My coach wanted me to play, so I played despite strange feelings just before kick-off. I felt like I was teasing fate."

He played for only 16 minutes in his usual midfield role and then disaster struck.

"I remember almost everything, although doctors say it is very unusual. I remember going for a high ball with my head. Theo a player in blue flashed from overboard and a terrible pain shot right through me."

"I saw rainbows. I saw green grass rolling towards me. I didn't want it to hit my head but it did. After that, it was darkness. I remember some beams of light and a lot of noise from the time they said I was in a coma. I'm not sure if I was dreaming or was just half-conscious."

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Lakers romp to NBA victory

NEW YORK (AP) — Just as they did in the pivotal game 4 of the National Basketball Association (NBA) championship series six months before, the Los Angeles Lakers found the magic against the Boston Celtics.

Magic Johnson, whose jump hook with two seconds left gave the Lakers a one-point victory and a 3-1 lead in the NBA finals, did it again Friday night when he banked in a long jumper at the buzzer, giving Los Angeles a 115-114 victory over the Celtics.

He finished with 18 points and 17 assists.

"That guy has liquid oxygen in his veins," teammate Mychal Thompson said of Johnson. "That's the coldest substance known to man. It's colder than icewater."

"I love that situation," said Johnson, the NBA's MVP in both the regular season and playoffs. "I love it. That's what I live for."

Boston led 111-105 with 2:33 left, but the Lakers came back to hand the Celtics their second consecutive loss at Boston Garden for the first time since April 12-14, 1985. The Celtics had won 34 consecutive regular-season games at Boston Garden until losing to Denver on Wednesday.

With three seconds left, Johnson took an inbound pass from midcourt and shot the ball over Robert Parish's outstretched arms. It banked cleanly through the basket as time expired.

"Only the great players make that shot," said Larry Bird, who scored 35 points for the Celtics.

In other games Friday night, it was Detroit 114, Washington 108; Dallas 108, Phoenix 104 in overtime; Milwaukee 125, Portland 112; Cleveland 115, Sacramento 113; and Atlanta 109, Golden

State 93.

Hawks 109, Warriors 93

Dominique Wilkins broke out of a shooting slump by scoring 45 points, leading Atlanta over Golden State.

Wilkins, who has been battered by an assortment of injuries this season, came into the game hitting 40.6 per cent of his shots and had hit only nine of 30 field-goal attempts in his previous two games.

But he broke loose for 19 points in the first quarter and scored 20 more in the third period. Wilkins made 18 of 25 shots for the game and added 10 rebounds.

Wilkins accounted for 15 points as the Hawks raced to a 21-6 lead. The Warriors, who were led by Joe Barry Carroll with 16 points, got no closer than five points the rest of the way.

Mavericks 108, Suns 104

Dallas edged Phoenix in Mavericks coach John MacLeod's first game against the team he coached for 14 years.

Sam Perkins scored six of his 16 points in overtime, including two game-clinching free throws with two seconds left, after the Suns missed their first seven shots in the extra period. Perkins hit his free throws after he rebounded a missed free throw and was fouled.

Mark Aguirre had 28 points and Rolando Blackman 24 for the Mavericks, and James Donaldson had 20 rebounds, including a club-record 11 on the offensive end.

James Edwards had 32 points and 16 rebounds, both season highs, for Phoenix.

Bucks 125, Trail Blazers 112

Milwaukee banded Portland its third consecutive loss after nine straight victories as Jack Sikma scored 25 of his 35 points in the second half.

Terry Cummings added 28 points for the Bucks, who used a decisive 16-7 run in the fourth quarter to clinch the victory. Paul Pressey scored seven points and Cummings five in the spurt, which extended a 94-93 lead to 110-100.

Portland was led by Steve Johnson with 25 points. Clyde Drexler scored 21 before he was ejected for bumping referee Bernie Fryer in the third quarter. Craig Hodges and Paul Pressey had 20 each for Milwaukee.

Pistons 114, Bullets 108

Detroit won its fifth straight as Joe Dumars made eight of his 22 points in the final 4:25 against Washington.

A 30-16 spurt by the Bullets cut a 15-point deficit to 98-97 with 6:36 remaining, and they still trailed only 101-100 when Dumars started his spurt. He hit a pair of free throws, a 17-foot (6-metre) jumper, a 12-footer (4-metre) and two more free throws down the stretch.

Cavaliers 115, Kings 113

Cleveland banded Sacramento its seventh consecutive loss as Mark Price scored 15 of his 18 points in the fourth quarter.

The Cavaliers, who outscored the Kings 36-23 in the final period, pulled ahead 114-113 with 31 seconds remaining on a three-point play by Brad Daugherty, who led Cleveland with 27 points.

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CHILDREN OF A LESSER GOD

Performances: 3, 30, 6, 15, 8, 30, 10, 30

OPERA

INSTANT JUSTICE

Performances: 3, 30, 6, 15, 8, 30, 10, 30

PLAZA

WELL OF DISLOYALTY

(Arabic)

Performances: 3, 30, 6, 15, 8, 30, 10, 30

ANNOUNCEMENT

Jordan Phosphate Mines Co. Ltd. announces that the closing date of the equipment below for Eshidiya phosphate projects are extended until 14.00 hours local time, Monday, January 18, 1988.

Package 5 2 draglines 21M3 bucket, 81M, operating radius
Package 6 4 rotary drills 6-9 inches diameter
Package 7 screening and crushing plant
Package 8 handling, storing and truck loading facilities
Package 9 power distribution system

Public release of tenders will take place at 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, Jan. 19, 1988 at shareholders hall in general offices building, 6th floor.

Wasef Azar Managing Director

Strike halts life as Dhaka relaxes ban on politics

Bangladesh closes BBC operations

DHAKA (R) — An opposition-led general strike took hold partially across Bangladesh on Saturday with no reports of violence as the government relaxed a state of emergency ban on political activity.

Police and paramilitary troops of the Bangladesh Rifles patrolled streets in the shuttered city of Dhaka, where there was no traffic except for some rickshaws and state corporation buses.

Rail and ferry services were mostly cancelled, but airlines and ports operated almost normally. Many government offices and banks were open, officials said.

It was the 13th day of stoppages since Nov. 10 when 21 opposition parties launched a national campaign aimed at forcing the resignation of President Hossein Mohammad Ershad.

Gen. Ershad, who has ruled Bangladesh for nearly six years, has said he will not step down under pressure.

The official BSS news agency, quoting an official announcement, said the government had decided to close the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) operation in Dhaka because of its "continuing hostile and tendentious propaganda against Bangladesh... which is tantamount to

sedition."

The announcement added: "Any Bangladeshi national trying to establish contact with or transmit news to the BBC would do so at his own risk as he would come under the mischief of the relevant provisions of the law."

Newly-freed opposition leaders staged protest rallies in Dhaka defying emergency laws on Friday, renewing calls for Gen. Ershad's resignation amidst speculation he might concede to their demand for a caretaker government to hold new elections.

A source close to Gen. Ershad told Reuters on Friday presidential aides were still working on the details of such a contingency plan.

The dawn-to-dusk strike coincided with a government decision to relax the ban on political activity, allowing opposition groups to hold meetings inside their offices.

Police said no violence was reported in the first five hours of the stoppage. Witnesses said at

some place protesters hurled stones at securitymen and jeered at people walking to their offices in the absence of transports.

Gen. Ershad ordered a state of emergency on Nov. 27 which banned rallies and marches, placed capital Dhaka and four other key cities under intermittent curfew and imposed stiff curbs on news reporting.

Subsequently he offered to hold talks with opposition parties on early elections and promised a free and fair vote to resolve the worst crisis since he seized power in a bloodless coup in March 1982.

He also dissolved the country's 330-member parliament on Dec. 6 and freed the main opposition leaders Sheikh Hasina and Begum Khaleda Zia from a month of house arrest on Thursday to pave way for the talks.

Bangladesh on Saturday expelled the visiting correspondent of the BBC a few hours after it said it was closing down the organisation's operations in Dhaka, Indian sources in Calcutta said.

The sources said Phil Jones, a British national, was escorted by a Bangladeshi intelligence official from his hotel and put on a plane to Calcutta.

Aquino gets last laugh on bed jibe

MANILA (R) — Philippine President Corazon Aquino has claimed the last laugh in her dispute with a Manila newspaper columnist who accused her of hiding under the bed during last August's abortive coup.

On Friday, she joked with top-ranking military officials over the irony that, in the end, it was Col. Gregorio "gringo" Honasan, the coup leader with a macho reputation, who dived under the bed.

"So, now who is the one hiding under the bed?" she was quoted as saying by Brigadier General Honesto Isla.

Just after the bloody military uprising last August, a Filipino Columnist wrote that Mrs. Aquino hid under her bed when rebel soldiers attacked the Malacanang Presidential Palace.

Mrs. Aquino was enraged and called journalists into her bedroom to show them there was no space beneath the bed to hide. She later filed a libel suit against the columnist.

Col. Honasan, the Philippines' most wanted man for the last three months, was captured last Wednesday when soldiers surrounded a house in a Manila suburb where he was hiding.

The officer who led the assault said the coup leader was found hiding under a bed in the maid's quarters.

Philippine police said on Saturday they would press charges of murder and rebellion against Col. Honasan while the military prepared a separate court martial.

"I will set the charges and Honasan will answer them. I don't think he can prove his innocence," Lieutenant Colonel Juanito Lagasca, chief police investigator, told reporters.

Rival Tamil rebels clash in northern Sri Lanka

COLOMBO (R) — Rival Tamil guerrilla groups clashed in northern Sri Lanka, killing an unknown number of rebels, military officials said on Saturday.

They said the fighting broke out on Friday in Vavuniya district between the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organisation (TELO).

The English daily Sun reported at least 15 Tigers and one TELO fighter were killed and scores of others wounded.

Military officials only said many were killed and both sides used rocket-propelled grenades, mortars and small arms.

The Tigers, which oppose a July peace pact to end a four-year-old Tamil separatist war in the island, have been involved in internecine fighting with TELO and two other Tamil factions, because the LTTE wanted to be the dominant

group.

The three anti-Tigers groups have accepted the pact, which is being enforced by up to 35,000 Indian soldiers who launched a major operation against the Tigers in October to confiscate weapons and continue to bear the brunt of Tiger attacks.

President Junius Jayewardene told Judicial Service Association meeting on Friday that 600 to 700 Indian soldiers lost their lives to implement the accord.

"We had lost about one (Sri Lankan) soldier a day in the last four years, but since the signing of the peace accord, not a single Sinhala, Tamil or Muslim soldier has died," the state-run Daily News quoted him on Saturday as saying.

"Their place has been taken by the Indians. I want to stop that also as quickly as I can," he added.

American may be tried in Managua war crimes court

MANAGUA (R) — An American pilot shot down as he flew a light plane along Nicaragua's Caribbean coast could be tried in a revolutionary court for involvement with U.S.-backed rebels, Interior Minister Tomas Borge said.

Mr. Borge told reporters on Thursday night that James Jordan Denby, 57, was being interrogated in a maximum state security jail but would eventually be handed over to the Justice Department.

The American will probably be tried in a "people's tribunal," a special court originally set up for judging war criminals and counter-revolutionaries, Mr. Borge said. He declined to predict what sentence would be appropriate.

"It all depends on the degree of the North American's guilt," he said.

Nicaraguan officials said captured documents proved Denby, a rancher from Carlinville, Illinois, was linked to the contras. Defence Minister Humberto Ortega has said the American may have been involved in a plot to assassinate Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto.

Mr. Denby was seized last Sunday when his Cessna 172 was forced down on a beach on Nicaragua's eastern Caribbean coast after being hit by Sandinista rifle fire just north of San Juan del Norte, 240 kilometres south east of Managua, close to the Costa Rican border.

Saragossa blast death toll reaches 11

SARAGOSSA, Spain (R) — A bomb attack on a barracks in northern Spain which killed eleven people, including four children, has scuttled hopes of an early end to more than 20 years of Basque separatist violence.

Two-year-old twins and two other young girls were among those killed in the town of Saragossa when a booby-trapped car exploded before dawn on Friday as 50 guardsmen's families were sleeping.

At least 34 others were injured in the attack which Interior Ministry officials blamed on the Basque separatist organisation

ETA (Basque Homeland and Freedom).

Hours later an off-duty Civil Guard policeman was shot dead near San Sebastian as he and his wife were about to get into their car, police said.

Several gunmen with automatic weapons shot repeatedly at Jose Luis Gomez Solis, 43, shortly before midnight on Friday on a bridge in the town of Placencia De Las Armas.

Gomez Solis, a sergeant in the Civil Guard, was killed instantly but his wife appeared not to have been harmed in the attack which bore the hallmarks of an ETA

killing.

The bomb attack showed ETA can still strike at will and shattered optimism that a series of body-blows to ETA's organisation in recent months signalled an end to separatist violence.

It also brought to an abrupt end a 40-day undeclared truce. ETA's last attack took place on Nov. 1 when a guardsman was killed in the Basque country.

Spain's King Juan Carlos paid a flying visit to Saragossa to comfort families of the victims. "I came in the name of the Queen, my son, my daughter and as a father," he said.

Rainbow Warrior buried at sea off N. Zealand

WELLINGTON (R) — With a final brief protest in its own honour, the former Greenpeace flagship Rainbow Warrior was buried at sea off northern New Zealand on Saturday, 2½ years after it was blown up by French secret agents.

An American environmentalist chained himself to the vessel to thwart its scuttling and to have it

made into a permanent floating museum for the anti-nuclear movement.

But Greenpeace officials convinced New Yorker Michael Sherry that his efforts were in vain, and he watched quietly as Maori clergymen blessed the vessel.

Sherry told reporters the scuttling would contravene Green-

peace principles.

About 100 small boats crowded with silent spectators gathered in Matarau Bay as the rusty wreck was sunk to become an underwater memorial to Fernando Pereira, the Greenpeace photographer killed when explosives planted by the agents tipped over the vessel in Auckland Harbour.

U.N. reports only 8 war crime files are missing

UNITED NATIONS (R) — All but eight of more than 465 files that were reported missing in the U.N. war crimes archive have been accounted for, the United Nations said on Friday.

An inquiry ordered by Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar determined that 441 documents were separated from one group and filed in another before the International War Crimes Commission turned the data over in 1948.

Of the remaining 24, five were sent by the commission to a gov-

ernment for additional information and were not returned, seven had dual numbers, and three numbers were unused and one was withdrawn as redundant, leaving the whereabouts of eight undetermined, according to a report on the probe.

"I shall continue to attempt to ascertain the whereabouts of these files and shall report further," Assistant Secretary General Richard Foran, the Canadian official who conducted the inquiry, said of the eight documents.

West German minister named new NATO chief

BRUSSELS (R) — NATO has appointed West German Defence Minister Manfred Woerner to be its new secretary-general in succession to Britain's Lord Carrington who steps down next year.

NATO foreign ministers announced the appointment of Mr. Woerner, 53, after a one-day session at NATO headquarters here.

A communique expressed ministers' regret at Lord Carrington's decision to retire after four

years in office and said they had asked Mr. Woerner to take over from July 1.

Mr. Woerner's appointment had been widely expected after the only other candidate, Norwegian former Prime Minister Kaare Willoch, withdrew from the race on Nov. 30.

Mr. Woerner, a tireless campaigner for greater military spending to counter a Soviet military build-up, won the decisive backing of the United States

Waldheim starts legal proceedings against magazine

VIENNA (R) — President Kurt Waldheim is to seek criminal prosecution of an Austrian magazine over a story that he accepted gold to save Yugoslav civilians from execution in World War II, a presidential spokesman said on Friday.

In a statement carried by the Austrian Press Agency, the spokesman said:

"The special issue of the periodical Wiener just published is a pamphlet with the obvious and deliberate intention of inciting feelings against the Austrian head of state by unqualified and untrue allegations."

"In view of the publication and the recognisable intention of defamation, the president has decided to empower the Vienna public prosecutor to begin criminal proceedings."

The magazine, which appeared on newstands on Thursday, carried an article quoting a 64-year-old Yugoslav-born American, Miodrag Cedic, as saying his uncle and father bribed Dr. Waldheim to save Yugoslavs from German reprisals in the war.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
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ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

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AK1063 AK852 46
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Summit seen as falling short in U.S., historic in Moscow

LONDON (R) — The outcome of the U.S.-Soviet summit was hailed as historic in Moscow, seen as falling short of tangible agreements in the United States, and given a guarded welcome by the Communist Warsaw Pact allies.

The Washington Post said U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev achieved enough even though their talks fell short of producing agreements on human rights, regional disputes and cutting strategic arms.

The Post said in an editorial: "The third Reagan-Gorbachev summit ended in something less than total cheers and hurrahs. That's probably just as well."

...It seems that contacts between the leaders had been extended, issues clarified and impetus given to a search for ways to ease the real differences between the two countries. That's plenty.

In Moscow, the Soviet Communist Party newspaper Pravda said the signing at the Washington summit of the pact to abolish intermediate-range weapons "would be enough for the meeting to enter the annals of history as the first real step on the road to nuclear disarmament."

Pravda said the summit had sealed a qualitative shift in East-West relations.

Warsaw Pact leaders, briefed on the summit by Mr. Gorbachev, issued a press statement attacking some NATO states for seeking new weapons to replace medium-range nuclear missiles.

They said the summit was a meeting of historic proportions and reaffirmed their willingness to cut conventional forces "to a level needed for defence." But after a two-hour meeting in East Berlin they said:

"Concern was expressed over the intentions of some NATO circles to 'compensate' for the withdrawal of (INF missiles) by expanding or modernising other weapons categories."

In London, the Times under the headline "post-summit pitfalls" carried an analysis about the prospects of arms control undermining Western security.

The Guardian urged Washington's NATO allies to act and stick together. It said in an editorial:

"If Western Europe feels a bit of a draught it may well be from the wings of chickens coming home to roost: 'Too much reliance on nuclear weapons,' neglect of conventional forces, overdependence on America, inability to put together a credible European conventional deterrent."

The Warsaw newspaper Zycie Warszawy saw no reason to be over-enthusiastic or "imagine that we have entered a period of idyll in East-West relations. The difficulties to surmount are tremendous."

West German newspapers said it was now vital to establish priorities for future arms control negotiations and look at other issues, such as human rights. The conservative Frankfurter Allgemeine declared: "Arms

control cannot remain the core and almost exclusive content of East-West relations."

In Italy, the Turin newspaper La Stampa said the summit was a personal success for Mr. Gorbachev but he "has not eliminated the deep-rooted fears America has of the Soviet Union."

Portugal's Prime Minister Anibal Cavaco Silva said his country was satisfied with the missile agreement but added: "The accord in itself is not enough and the (NATO) allies must insist on a cut in conventional forces and inter-continental missiles as well as bringing up the question of human rights."

In the Middle East, reaction to the summit was generally muted, with some regional commentators assessing it fruitless at best and harmful at worst to the Arab cause.

Iranian President Ali Khamenei said the two leaders were not genuinely interested in ending the Gulf war, Tehran Radio reported.

In Peking, the New China News Agency said the U.S. and Soviet leaders had "failed to meet the expectations of the world peoples" on regional issues such as Afghanistan.

Weinberger unmoved by Gorbachev visit

NEW YORK (R) — Caspar Weinberger, who resigned recently as U.S. defence secretary, was quoted on Saturday as saying

he was not impressed by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev during his visit to Washington.

"I think it is awfully early to conclude that this is a warm, trusting man who is not going to do anything wrong," Mr. Weinberger said in an interview with the New York Times. "He's got claws and every once in a while those claws come out."

Mr. Weinberger, who had been one of Mr. Reagan's key conservative advisers, said he continued to believe that Moscow seeks world domination.

"The president knows exactly what the 'evil empire' is capable of doing," Mr. Weinberger said, using a phrase that Mr. Reagan applied to the Soviet Union when he took office in 1981.

"They're acquiring an awfully large number of overseas bases, overflight rights, places to dock and repair their ships that don't sound very much to me like staying within their own borders," he added.

While, Mr. Weinberger, who stepped down as defence secretary because his wife is ill, approved of the intermediate range nuclear arms treaty signed by Mr. Reagan and Mr. Gorbachev during their summit this week, he indicated he still had reservations about the new Soviet leader.

"I don't think that just because he wears Gucci shoes and smiles occasionally... that the Soviet Union has changed its basic doctrines," Mr. Weinberger said.

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Belgians bite into summit effigies

ANTWERP, Belgium (R) — Belgians are biting into souvenirs of the Washington summit — marzipan and chocolate, effigies of President Reagan and Kremlin leader Gorbachev complete with a Christmas tree and a missile. Hans Burie, a 47-year-old confectioner, has sold about 100 of his \$36 creations to mark the summit which ended on Thursday. One went to the U.S. consul in this northern port city and another was delivered to the Soviet consul, a regular customer, on Friday. Burie also offers the two heads as individual items but Reagan is more expensive. "It has more mazzapan...his nose is much bigger," he told Reuters.

More time left on 'doomsday clock'

CHICAGO (R) — The keepers of a "doomsday clock" said on Friday they will roll its hands back from a position signalling the brink of nuclear holocaust partly because of improved chances for world peace from this week's summit. The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, which has kept the clock at its offices on the University of Chicago campus since 1947, said it will move the hands back from their current position, three minutes to midnight, next week. They cited the summit between President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev as a factor in their decision. The new position of the hands will be announced on Dec. 17. The hands of the clock were last moved in January 1984, when they inched to their present position closer to the hour symbolising holocaust following the Soviet Union's downing of a Korean Air Lines passenger jet and increased U.S. military activity in the Caribbean. The clock has been as close as two minutes to midnight, in 1953 after the United States and the Soviet Union conducted thermonuclear tests. Its current position is the second closest since the time-keeping started.

Wedding relives India's ancient splendour

GWALIOR, India (R) — A fairy-tale wedding in this once princely city, replete with Maharajahs, diamonds and gun salutes, recaptured the splendour of India's ancient Moghul rulers. About 50,000 people travelled 400 years back in time to a sumptuous, feudal era to witness the marriage of the daughter of the Maharajah of Gwalior and the son of the Maharajah of Kashmir. Princes and nawabs, bedecked in heirloom jewels, filed past caparisoned elephants and silver horse-carriages at the white, colonnaded Jai Vilas Palace rising above the central city of Gwalior. At precisely 7.54 p.m. (1424 GMT) — a time ordained by palace astrologers — the 23-year-old prince of Kashmir wed his 20-year-old bride as Hindu priests chanted mantras. The guests included King Birendra and Queen Aishwarya of Nepal. They are related by marriage to the bride's father, Madhavrao Scindia, who is also Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's railways minister. The groom's father served in the late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's cabinet. Also in attendance were 30 former rulers of parts of India, many tracing their lineage to the 16th century when much of north India was in Muslim Moghul empire. Its rulers, famed for their opulence, built the Taj Mahal. The Maharajahs, rajahs, nizams, nawabs and assorted minor rulers were allowed to indulge their ostentatious habits under British rule but lost their thrones after independence in 1947.

Sting to perform in Argentina

BUENOS AIRES (R) — British rock star Sting has said he would join a worldwide tour next year to benefit Amnesty International human rights organisation because "my second function is to inform." "Rock is a language that people understand on every continent, and I am very happy to be a part of that movement," Sting told a news conference in Buenos Aires. Sting, formerly with the group the Police, said in Brazil on Wednesday that he and other stars including Peter Gabriel would launch a worldwide tour to help Amnesty International on the 40th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Officials of the London-based Amnesty said the tour would begin in August 1988 and a full list of performers and venues would be released next year. "My first function is to entertain, but my second function is to inform," said Sting, wearing a bone necklace that he said a community of Xingu Indians had given to him in the Amazon basin during his recent tour of Brazil.

U.K. police search for 2 prisoners

LONDON (R) — Two prisoners whisked to freedom from a maximum security jail by a helicopter evaded a police dragnet in central England on Friday. Convicted murderer Sydney Draper and John Kendall, serving eight years for burglary and conspiracy, scrambled aboard a hijacked helicopter as it touched down on the sports field of Gartree Prison in the county of Leicestershire. Home Secretary Douglas Hurd ordered an inquiry into Thursday's escape, the first time the James Bond-style method has been used for a jail breakout in Britain. A senior officer warned that the pair were extremely dangerous and probably armed. Hundreds of police officers took part in the hunt. Police throughout Britain have been alerted and photographs of the two prisoners circulated. The helicopter was hijacked from a nearby airport by a man claiming to want to photograph a local golf course and was flown to Gartree where inmates were exercising on the field. The two escapees and their accomplice left the pilot handcuffed to the helicopter when they abandoned it in a nearby village and made off in a stolen van. They later forced a woman motorist off the road and seized her car. She was not injured.

Erotic art sale draws collectors

LONDON (R) — An ivory phallus, a Tibetan bronze of a love-making couple and an Indian miniature of a prince and his consort have gone under the hammer in London at an auction devoted exclusively to erotic art. Collectors, watched by curious on-lookers, paid a total of just over £26,000 (\$46,800) for the 293 pieces of erotica in Bonhams' West London auction room, which held its first such sale last year. The highest price paid was £2,500 (\$4,500) for a 19th century empire gold and tortoiseshell snuff box, with a secret compartment showing a group of men sampling the delights of a brothel. "We're just feeling our way with this sort of sale," said auctioneer Eric Knowles. "We're careful to keep it in the best possible taste — we wouldn't consider selling anything showing paedophilia, bestiality or violence to women, for instance." About 80 people turned out for the sale of erotica which included Japanese prints, enamel, boxes, books, drawings, paintings and sculpture from the 19th and early 20th centuries. "I collect erotica because I like having nice things around me," said one elegantly dressed front-seat buyer who snapped up several carvings. A painted pine chest showing scenes from the ancient Indian sex guide Kama Sutra fetched £450 (\$810) — less than expected — but a carved ivory phallus snuff box sold for twice its valued price at £380 (\$680).

Arrest warrant issued for rock singer

LOS ANGELES (R) — An arrest warrant was issued for rock singer Sly Stone after he failed to appear in court to answer charges he had not paid \$2,500 in child support. Stone, whose real name is Sylvester Stewart, is due to appear in a Los Angeles municipal court for arraignment on a charge of possessing cocaine. The 43-year-old singer was free on bail of \$10,000 pending his arraignment on two counts of refusing to support his former wife and 14-year-old son.